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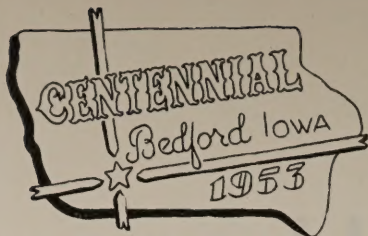
The CENTENNIAL HISTORY of

Bedford, Iowa

1853-1953



**PUBLISHED AT BEDFORD, IOWA
JULY - 1953**



AN INTRODUCTION--

for our pictorial and
graphic view of
century-old
BEDFORD, IOWA:

This centennial history has been prepared in response to a general demand for a souvenir booklet commemorating the one hundredth birthday of Bedford, Iowa.

While not intended primarily as a history reference, nevertheless it contains, to the best of knowledge of its contributors, a true and accurate record of our town structurally and economically, recording in pictures and story some of the old, some of the new.

Needless to say there remains none among us who can remember back to the town's beginning. For this early data your publishing board is deeply grateful to two existing histories, Frank E. Crosson's and Lyman Evans', from which much of the early material has been taken.

To record for later generations, merchants of Bedford have liberally contributed funds to provide the advertising contained herein which not only financed a major portion of this book but also gave us a printed record of the Bedford we know today.

Residents have been liberal in lending the committee many pictures of early industry, of pioneers and of buildings long since moved or demolished to make way for progress.

Hours have been spent in writing, collecting and editing the copy that went into its production. None has profited personally from its publication.

With all this in mind, your committee gratefully places in your hands this book in the hope, if you are a former resident, that it may be a lasting record of your return "back home". If you are a resident, it will give you a better perspective of what may have heretofore gone unnoticed in your work-a-day life.

July 1, 1953.

James S. Taylor, M. K. Sawyer,
Ben Scane, A. Elton Jensen, Ar-
thur Dinwiddie, Leon C. Severs,
A. W. Hamblin.

—The Publishing Board

IN THE CENTER OF THE SCENE . . .



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. . . 100 YEARS AGO

One hundred years is a long time. Four generations, in reality, are represented in that span of a century.

Stories of Indian raids and wagon trains are so remote to today's resident that they seem more like legends and folklore than actual happenings that took place right in Taylor county - in Bedford, Iowa.

To our parents, our grandparents and those before them, it is only a step backward to that time one hundred years ago when Bedford had its beginning.

In 1834 legislators of Michigan Territory, of which Iowa then was a part, provided for the creation of counties within the territory. First counties were Dubuque and "Demoine" and included the entire tract known as the Blackhawk purchase. Later, when what now is Iowa was a part of Wisconsin Territory, twenty-two counties were established. When Iowa became a territory, twenty-three other counties were added and after Iowa became a state, boundaries were enlarged, divisions were made so that now Iowa is comprised of 99 counties.

Before 1850 surveyors had crossed the land now known as Taylor county but their markings were crude. Boundary stakes soon rotted. Instances where earth mounds were used became confused with gopher mounds. Consequently surveyor's corrections had to be made which resulted in a part of the county's townships not being six miles square.

An Act defining Taylor county passed the Iowa third general assembly and was signed in January, 1851. General Zachary Taylor was the man honored in choosing the county's name. He had died in 1850 after serving as President for only 16 months. His successes in the war with Mexico had made him both popular and famous. Elisha Parker was appointed organizing sheriff with Jackson as the original township.

Benton and Polk townships came next and in 1854 Benton was divided to create Ross township, Washington township followed in 1855.

In 1859 Mason, Dallas, Platte, Clayton and Nodaway townships were born; Holt followed in 1863 and not until 1869 were Grant and Gay townships added. Grove township was organized in 1870 and 10 years later Bedford township was separated from Benton. Few changes have since taken place.

See index 10.00 8-19-66 P.O. 2608 ✓



A CENTURY AGO

—THE TOWN WAS PLOTTED AND LOTS WERE SOLD JULY 3, 1853

After Taylor county was organized, the next thing on the agenda was to select a county seat.

During the winter of 1852-53 the general assembly appointed Jesse Major, William Robbins and S. F. Snider to locate a "seat of justice" for the county and in March 1853 these commissioners chose the Southwest quarter of Section 26, township 68 range 34 as the county seat.

At the April court term in the same year a surveyor was ordered to lay off the town of Bedford stipulating that sale of lots would take place on July 4, 1853. The second deed of record shows sale of two lots to Edwin Houck for \$30.15.

Following are quotations from the Taylor county records:

"In obedience to an order of County Court of Taylor county, made at the May term for the year 1853, appointing Mr. Jacob Ross to lay off the town of Bedford, it being the county seat of Taylor . . . I commenced . . . beginning at the S.E. Corner of the lot No. 1 being West. The lots is 66 in front and ran back 126 feet with 12 feet alley. The street is 66 feet wide and are run at 12 degrees variation . . . The public square is the block North of Block No. 10.

The street East of the square is Water Street and the street west of the square is Greene street.

"The second street west of the square is Madison street and the Street S. of the square is Jefferson street; the second street S. of the square is Main street; 3 street S. of the square is Washington street; the 4 street S. of the square is Jackson Street; the second street E. of the square is Dodge Street, the street N. of the square is Pearl Street."

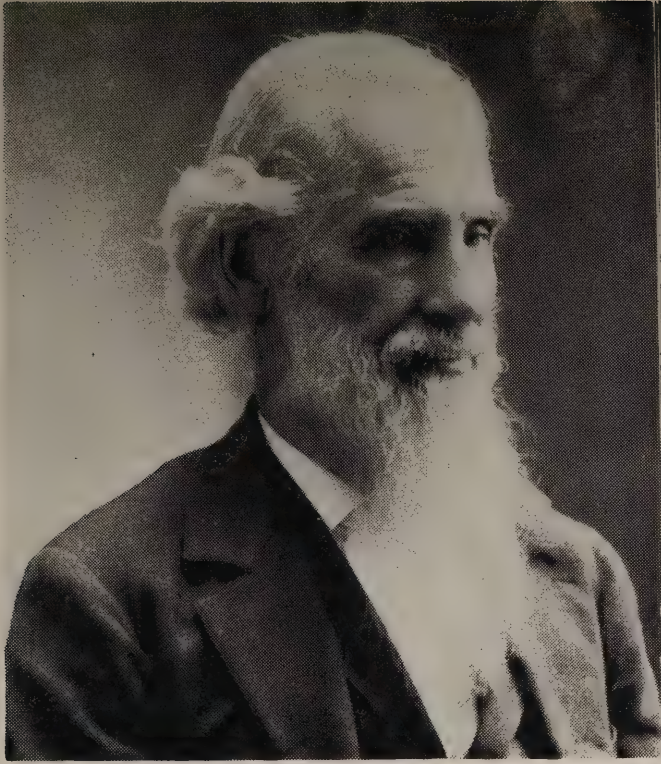
Judge John Lowe certified the corrections of the surveyor's report, and on July 4, 1853 the first sale of lots was held.

Edwin Houck, writing of the sale, commented as follows:

"No person attended the sale except the farmers of the county. A barrel of whisky was on the ground, and after they had drawn freely, the sale commenced, and most of the lots surveyed were sold at prices varying from ten to twenty dollars . . . Not a single lot was paid for, or title bond given, and if any record was kept of the sale, it is not to be found among the records of the county.

"It is but just, however, to say that these sales were so treated in nearly every instance."

The Founder of Bedford



EDWIN HOUCK

Edwin Houck, who is called by Taylor county historian Lyman Evans, "The Founder of Bedford", came to Taylor county in the spring of 1854 and soon thereafter purchased of the Government for \$100 a tract of eighty acres of land that is now the location of Bedford, Iowa.

Mr. Houck was born in New York state in 1820 and at an early age moved to Pennsylvania, and from there to Bedford. His first home here was a log cabin, the second such building in Bedford, and was located on the lots 7 and 8, Block 11, Original Town of Bedford. This is the present location of the Post Office and other business buildings located in the east half of lot 11.

The deed showing this location has the earliest date of any deed of record covering lots in Bedford at the County Recorder's office.

Upon completion of his home Mr. Houck brought his wife from the East and she was given a bead purse as a token of friendship by the Indians. This purse is now the possession of a member of the Houck family.

Mr. Houck was active in the interests of the town and country. He established the first printing press here and later was editor and publisher of a county newspaper for a number of years.

Edwin Houck was followed here a very short time after he came to Bedford by his mother, his brother, Austin S. Houck, who was the father of County Auditor Walter A. Houck, by his brother John Milton Houck who was the grandfather of Alice and Charles Hale of Bedford, and his sister Eliza Greenlee who was the grandmother of Mrs. Cora Blake of Bedford.

Early history of Taylor County shows that Austin S. Houck, the above mentioned brother of Edwin Houck, was given a land grant by the U. S. Government which was issued in payment for military services of the Houck brothers' father in the war of 1812. This grant was taken in Grove Township and was known as the Blue Grove Farm. Edwin Houck, who came to Bedford in search of a healthy climate, as well as adventure and a new home, lived to the age of eighty years.

HOW BEDFORD GOT ITS NAME

FOUR DIFFERENT SOURCES . . .



Early historians, as they are so prone to do, dwell on tremendous trifles, neglecting to include in their chronicles some of the more important phases.

This, it would seem, is the fate which befell the record of just how Bedford got its name.

Neither Crosson's nor Evans' Taylor county histories agree on who named the town although both are of the opinion that it was one of the surveyors who made the original government plat of the county.

In fact there are four different schools of thought regarding the naming of Bedford.

One school contends Bedford was the namesake of Bedford, England, being so designated by the English who pressed westward from early Colonial settlements. This could have some basis in fact for it is recorded that the original spelling, typically British, was "Beadforde".

There are those who feel Bedford was named for Bedford, Pennsylvania, home of the government engineer; another group declares it was a Bedford, Indiana, native who made the original survey and named the town for his birthplace. Both of these are individually subscribed to by the now existing his-

tories of the county, but neither substantiate their beliefs with chronicled facts or records.

The fourth contention in the naming of Bedford comes from Bolckow, Mo., where aged Lewis Bedford, now partially blind, asserts that his great uncle came into Iowa in 1849, established a store here and served as Bedford's first postmaster.

This latter claim is not substantiated by the U. S. Postal Department. In a letter received here in April, 1953 the postal officials' records are cited as revealing that the town of Bedford, Iowa was not listed as a post office until 1856. To quote the letter:

"The Bedford post office in Taylor county was originally established as Grove on June 30, 1855 with Adam Vinnedge as the first postmaster," department records reveal.

"On June 24, 1856 the name was changed to Bedford."

Be that as it may, Beadforde or Bedford, such it has been for the past century; such, is the sincere wish of all, it will remain for another 100 years marked by progress comparable to that made since July 4, 1853.

This story of how Bedford, Iowa, got its name will be a new one to most Bedfordites:

It comes from a man by the name of Lewis Bedford, 72, a resident of Bolckow, Mo. Cliff and Elsie Dougan of Bedford have known him for a number of years.

When they sat down to visit with him in his home recently and asked him to tell his story, he replied heatedly:

"It's no story. It's the truth, every bit of it, just as it has been told and handed down in our family for years." Here's his story, in brief:

The Bedfords came to eastern America from England prior to 1736, and later generations of them kept moving west. Four brothers arrived in Missouri a little over a hundred years ago. One of the four men, Thomas J. Bedford, came up into Iowa from St. Joseph and established a small trading post store at a spot somewhere near or within the present limits of our town of Bedford, Iowa.

In this store he also handled the mail for the few early settlers who were his customers and for the few traders and travelers who came this way.

Mr. Bedford was not a regularly appointed postmaster but for a year or more, he handled the mail addressed in care of "Bedford's Trading Post" as an accommodation to his patrons, long before the first regular United States post office was established here in 1855.

"Bedford's Store and Trading Post" became shortened to just Bedford. What became of Thomas J. Bedford? Sold out and joined the 49ers in the California Gold Rush. He won and lost a couple of fortunes before his death in California.

The narrator of this tale is a grand nephew of Thomas J. Bedford.

AERIAL VIEW OF BEDFORD TODAY





OLD STONE COURT HOUSE

Built In 1863
Native Stone

Court history of Taylor county begins with the first term of the District Court being held September 1, 1851 by Judge James Sloan at the house of Jacob Ross. George P. Style, A. C. Ford and Jacob Dawson were the attorneys. Sloan resigned in 1852 and was succeeded by Samuel H. Riddle. Later in 1852 Judge Allen A. Bradford was appointed and was succeeded in 1855 by E. H. Sears followed by James G. Day and J. W. McDill.

The county court began at the home of one Jacob Miller on February 16, 1851, with John Lowe presiding as County Judge. Earlier reference is made of Jacob Ross as "Judge Ross". Judge Lowe was succeeded by W. C. Gibson as county judge, followed by Judge Jesse Ev-

ans who appears to be the last county judge and W. F. Walker followed as probate judge.

Early records of the county for a period from 1854 to 1866 were loosely and carelessly kept.

In 1863 the first courthouse of the county was built on a site immediately south and east of the present court house. The first court house was a stone building, two stories in height, with the court room above and the county offices below, such offices being supplied with two small vaults for the records. Almost from the first this courthouse was inadequate in size and equipment.

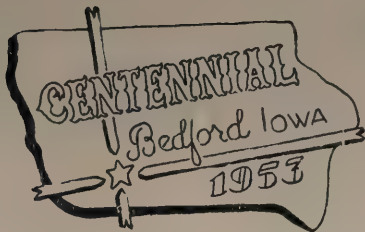
A vote to build a new courthouse was submitted to the people in the 1880's but was overwhelmingly voted down.

In 1891 the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to submit a tax of five mills for each year of 1891, 1892 and 1893 to the voters at the general election. This proposition was voted down. A number of people, largely from the Bedford community, got together and subscribed \$10,000 and petitioned the Board to call a special election to vote on a courthouse proposition and a levy of \$40,000 to be realized over a three-year period, and the proposition carried. A contract for a building of the courthouse for \$38,000 was awarded to Allan H. Chaffee of Corning, Iowa, in 1892 and the building was completed in the spring of 1893. The contractor lost money but was awarded an additional \$1,000 by the Board and given a gold watch by his friends in this community.

PRESENT COURT HOUSE ERECTED IN 1893

\$10,000 Subscribed
By Bedford Donors





JAMES A. FRAZIER

CELEBRATES HIS 102nd

BIRTHDAY ON

OCTOBER 19, 1953

OLDEST LIVING RESIDENT IN BEDFORD

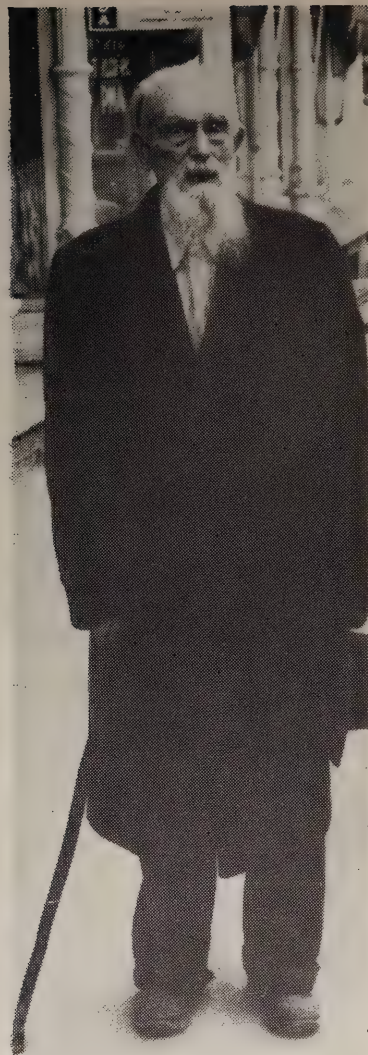
James A. Frazier, 101 year old citizen of Bedford, has achieved that rare and difficult attainment of having grown old gracefully and happily. Still active, Mr. Frazier, Taylor county's oldest citizen, celebrated HIS centennial nearly two years ago.

This congenial gentleman, born October 18, 1851, still does his own housework at his little home in west Bedford. Mr. Frazier walks to town frequently where he meets and visits with friends, shops for his household supplies and occasionally treats himself to a meal at a cafe. He says his knees and eyes now bother him some but he still reads a little and walks a lot. Active all of his life, Mr. Frazier did yard work for his neighbors up to his 95th birthday.

Born in Wisconsin, Mr. Frazier moved to Rollo, Illinois, at the age of five. He farmed in the vicinity of Rollo until he was 31. In 1905 he moved to the Gravity community where he farmed for a few years. He has been a resident of Bedford for the last several years.

Mr. Frazier married a North Carolina girl on October 17, 1901—the day before his 50th birthday. Mrs. Frazier died in 1923. His closest relatives are some nieces and nephews now residing in California.

As Bedford observes its Centennial in July of 1953, its citizens and friends congratulate the local man whose life has spanned a century: "Hats off to Mr. James A. Frazier!"



ONE OF THE EARLY LANDMARKS . . .



The early settlers of Bedford were idealistic and optimistic. They were looking toward the future, not the past; making history, not reading it—such a man was Stephen H. Parker. His home called "Fort Parker" was one of the early landmarks of Taylor County.

Rendezvous for the early settlers when Indians were reported "on the war path", the Parker home was headquarters for everyone in times of peace or danger. On several occasions the settlers flocked to "Fort Parker" to adopt plans for defense against the Indians.

In 1852 Stephen Parker built the first house with a "shingle roof", having transported the shingles by wagon from St. Joseph, Mo. He also "imported" the bricks for his fireplace and chimney from a brick yard three miles east of Maryville, Mo. The one-story house was equipped with a circular stairway from the ground floor to one corner of the loft. This house, commonly known as "Fort Parker" stood intact until it was destroyed by fire in recent years.

In these pioneer times, Mrs. Parker had to obtain her flour in St. Joseph. When a horse needed shoeing the nearest blacksmith was Maryville. To further illustrate the "pioneer conditions" of this section of Hawkeye and during Stephen Parker's day, the records show that there was not a single bridge be-

tween the Parker home and St. Joseph. In order to cross the streams it was often necessary to take a wagon apart to float it piece by piece across the water in "dug outs" made of hollowed out logs.

One of the Parkers' daughters married Captain Joe Park, who came to this county to start a woolen factory for an eastern con-

FORT PARKER

cern. Captain and Mrs. Joe Park were the parents of Sam Park, who is remembered as Vice-Consul to France and as one of the larger contributors to help build the Lake of Three Fires.

Two granddaughters of Mr. Parker who now reside in Bedford are Mrs. Guy (Myrtle) Thompson, whose father was Marion Parker; and Mrs. Paul (Georgia) Miller, whose father was Thomas A. C. Parker.

THE PARKER MEN

Stephen Parker, shown below, front row, center. Others in the picture are his sons. Front row left, son Stephen Parker, then the father and another son, Thomas A. C. Parker.

Back row: John Parker, Marion Parker and Henry Parker. It was said that son Henry Parker was the first white boy baby born in Taylor county.

All the Parker men had much to do with the pioneer history of Bedford.



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DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS . . .

Ralph W. Thompson, Bedford's oldest native son, has seen many changes in this community. Dean of Bedford business men, he has served this community for more than 53 years—first with a men's clothing store, then as automobile dealer and finally as oil dealer and owner of—

Bedford Oil Co., RALPH W. THOMPSON, Owner

Stations at Madison on Main, Pollock Blvd.

Bulk Station at Corner of State and Washington

BEDFORD BAPTIST CHURCH ORGANIZED DEC. 2, 1854



OLD BRICK CHURCH DEDICATED IN 1871

On Dec. 2, 1854, a group of 15 conscientious men and women, met and organized the Bedford Baptist church.

In this new country there was not a Baptist preacher in all of the ten counties that had been laid out in Southwestern Iowa. There were about ten families of Baptists, old acquaintances who had moved from Indiana to Taylor county to establish new homes. In the group was a man named David Smith. He had a brother, James Smith back in Indiana, who he suggested should come to Bedford to do missionary work.

James M. Smith was petitioned by the Taylor county group to come to Bedford and after due consideration, Elder Smith, his wife and four little children, William, Joseph, Carey and Electa, came here to make their home. Accompanied by two brothers-in-law, they arrived in Bedford on Oct. 31, 1854 and the next Sunday, Elder Smith preached the first sermon that was ever preached in Bedford. It was in a little log cabin, with hay put down for a floor. There was but one door and no windows. A candle burning gave light to read the Bible and articles of faith. Four weeks later the first Baptist church was organized.

The charter members of the church were J. M. Smith and wife; his brother-in-law, V. Knight, who was also a Baptist preacher, and his wife; Albert Derrickson and wife; John Derrickson and wife;

David Smith and wife; Mrs. Greer, J. A. Golding and wife; William Smith and wife.

In 1857, a church was built on the corner of Pearl and Pennsylvania streets, the lot being donated by E. Houck. Some of the first members to be received for baptism were A. B. Van Sickle and Amanda Van Sickle, Grandma Dallison, Alex John, William Evans and William E. Smith.

During a revival meeting in Jan. 1870, about 100 were added to the membership of the church and it was then decided that a new building was needed. The church was

built of brick at a cost of \$7,500 and stood just east of where the present church is located. The church was dedicated in November 1871.

Uncle Jimmy Smith and Uncle Billy Golding were among the early preachers of the church, enduring many hardships to carry the gospel to remote settlements.

Other early pastors were E. Otis, John Evans, F. M. Seay, C. C. Baird, A. Stott, S. M. Morton, Elder Stimpson, E. J. Lockwood, Wm. Tilley, G. W. Robey, Elder Jacobs, J. H. Scott, J. C. Lewis, C. L. Parsons.

It was under the leadership of the next pastor, Rev. D. W. Griffith, that the present church building was erected in 1900 at a cost of nearly \$16,000.

Pastors following Rev. Griffith were A. I. Jones, D. McMasters, J. W. Neyman, C. C. Hatcher, C. Wesley Fletcher, Clark M. Crowell, W. H. Hogue, Thomas, O. H. Hallgrimson, Eugene Nyman and the present pastor, Fred H. Cowles.

The Bedford Baptist church has been blest throughout the years and has sent out many workers in the Master's service. Included in this group are John L. Barton, Will Goudie, Clinton Neyman, Roy C. Longfellow, Wayne Clark, Earl Longfellow, Leslie Ross, Carl Kingsley.

Starting with a membership of 15, the church now has a membership of 450.

—Rosa Ulrich Hosman

PRESENT CHURCH ERECTED IN 1900



"FORD TIMES" FOR BEDFORD'S 1953 CENTENNIAL



Back row: Bob Gillette, Lewis Carmichael, Gene Johnson, Mrs. Helen Larsen, Cliff Hanshaw
Front row: Charles Thompson, Lowell Caskey, Jack Larsen and Howard Poore

THE EARLY PIONEERS had to travel the "hard way". They drove a Co-nestoga wagon with a canvas top looking so much like a sail that people began to call it a PRAIRIE SCHOONER.

TIME MARCHED ON and in a brief span of 50 years the "horseless carriage" has passed through numerous changes and advancements.

IN 1941 the Taylor County Motor Company, under the managership of J. M. Larsen, opened for business. Following the death of J. M. Larsen in 1950, the partnership was reorganized with Jack Larsen appointed manager.

TODAY with our recently remodeled garage with attractive offices and showroom, we are better equipped to give that dependable service and fair-deal business practices for which this firm has always been known.

Taylor County Motor Co.

"Your Friendly Ford Dealer in Bedford, Iowa"



Indebted to Late James R. Locke for New Sacred Heart Catholic Church Mass Said Here New Year's Day 1951

For 66 years Catholic services were held in the old Sacred Heart Catholic church located in southwest Bedford. Since 1951 services have been held in the new church pictured above, located a block east of the Baptist church.

Fathers Durham, Murphy and Stader served the Catholics of Lenox and Bedford from 1891 until 1900, Father Stader being the last of the Benedictine Fathers to serve in Taylor county. In 1900 Bishop Cosgrove appointed Father John Noonan, the first diocesan pastor of Lenox and Bedford. Following came Fathers Glenn and Feeley. In 1912 the southwestern part of Iowa, though youthful in Catholic population, had matured sufficiently to shift for itself. Bishop Dowling became the first Bishop of the Des Moines Diocese which covers the southwest quarter of Iowa.

Father Troy became the first

Des Moines diocesan priest to serve Lenox and Bedford. Father Tracy followed when Father Troy became a chaplain in World War I. After three years' service, Father Tracy died. For the next 14 years, Father Pouget served Lenox and Bedford. Depression years came, Sacred Heart Church in Bedford was closed for a period, to be reopened under Father McStay who remained from 1935 until 1940. Succeeding pastors were Father Marasco, 1940-42; Walker 1943-48; McMahon 1948-50; and the present pastor (who furnished these notes) Father Reisz who took up his duties in the fall of 1950.

"History shows that the Catholic population of Bedford has been small. Be it small or large we should be proud of our heritage, our faith, our citizenship. May God protect and prosper the community of Bedford." —Father Reisz



CONGRATULATIONS ON
BEDFORD'S 100 YEARS!

We have kept
abreast of the
times to serve you

DIAMONDS — WATCHES — GIFTS

Caskey Jewelry Store

Christian Church

SITE PURCHASED IN 1867 FOR \$200

The Bedford Christian church had its beginning in February 1856, when a group of people met in the home of Jas. D. Ross five miles southwest of Bedford. Ten of the thirteen original members were: Thomas and E. W. Cobb, Asa and Mary Cobb, William C. and Mary Cole, Jas. D. Ross and wife, Julia Vincent and William Bradbury. Elder Hiram Warner of Albany, Mo. came a little later to complete the organization. The meeting place then became the Ross school house. Meetings were held at Siam, west of the school house and at Lexington about five miles northeast of Bedford. Other men who did much to promote the membership included Elder Samuel Downing of Harrison county, Mo., Elder Street Cox and Elder Joseph Paragrane.

Bedford became the meeting place in the early part of 1867. The present site was purchased in July 1867 for \$200. The congregation met in the Court House, and in 1868 a building was erected on the present site. In 1881 Lyman Evans in his History of Taylor County says, "The church owns a neat house of worship and other property valued at \$6,000. Rev. F. M. Kirkham was pastor until about September 1 when he was called to a large and wealthy church in Chicago. . . . The Superintendent of the Sunday school was Jonathan Atkinson."

During the ministry of J. Will Walters in 1900 the present building was erected at a cost of more than \$12,000. The new church was dedicated on October 7, 1900 by F. M. Raines of Cincinnati, Ohio. The Church Year Book in 1911 carries this comment when C. H. Mattox was minister: "The work and service of the congregation in the past year has been one of the best. The paving and general repairing of the building means the expenditure of more than \$2,000 in addition to the general expenses."

In 1915, while W. E. Robb was minister, the basement was first constructed. It was remodeled in 1922 during the ministry of S. D. Harlan. The committee for this work was: W. F. Miller, Harlan Montgomery, Mrs. L. E. Beard and Mrs. E. E. Healy.

The Sunday school was organized in 1871 or 1872. The first teacher in the Men's class was J. M. Little. The first teacher of the Loyal Stand-By class was Carrie Goudie. The Ladies Aid was organized in 1875. There was a Young People's Society of the Christian church before 1889, but after an inactive period the Christian Endeavor was organized in 1889. In March 1891 the Women's Missionary Society was organized during the ministry of A. W. Davis. Ben Mitchel, a Scotchman, missionary to India, inspired the women to organize. Today the church has one

served this church in what seems to be consecutive order:

Hiram Warner, Samuel Downing, Street Cox, Joseph Paragrane, Hastin January, L. D. Cook, J. C. Porter, A. C. Roach, F. M. Kirkham, J. P. Lucas, John Thomas, A. W. Davis, C. Grant McNeil, T. F. Richardson, Horace Sibera, J. Will Walters, Lee Furgerson, Edgar Price, G. A. Hendrickson, C. H. Mattox, Mart Gary Smith, W. E. Robb, Lee H. Barnum, E. E. Lowe, S. D. Harlan, Edgar Price, Fred Coley, J. C. Harris, C. Max Buck, Ben W. Sinderson, P. H. Petersen, Walter A. Purdy, George W. Swan,



PRESENT BUILDING ERECTED IN 1900

of those original or charter members—Mrs. E. E. Healy. Mrs. Healy, faithful church worker, has been a teacher for sixty-eight years. The church has, at present, one member, Mr. Jimmie Frazier, who is more than a century old.

About 1920 while E. E. Lowe was minister here, the church had Station Batang, Tibet as a living link. At the time Dr. A. L. Shelton, later martyred, was missionary to Tibet.

Below is a list of ministers who

Ben W. Sinderson, Evan Routh, Benj. R. Hollis.

It may be noted that two of the ministers returned for a second pastorate. Others have done some short time supply preaching. Such as, Joe Cook of Shenandoah, who came after Walter Purdy closed his ministry, and his work was of sufficient duration that some would list his name among the regular ministers.



WELL, I'LL TELL YOU - - -

In this store we strive to create an "Old Fashioned" atmosphere with a tinge of the cracker barrel and the prune box and a place where you are always welcome to come to talk over Korea, the crops or Catherine's chickens.

BUT while we want you to feel at home in the "Old Fashioned" way, remember we have a modern store to serve your hardware and home furnishing needs.

—Paul Bartlett
Owner & Manager

The Gamble Store - Bedford, Iowa

Bedford Methodist Church

HAS HAD CONTINUOUS SERVICE SINCE 1854

The pioneer period of the Methodist church in Bedford began in 1843 when missionaries came in from Missouri and preached occasionally in Methodist homes in that section of Iowa, then known as the Platte Purchase.

Services were held at the Hindman home by a Rev. Alex Spencer, by a Rev. Mr. Shives, a half-breed Indian, by the Rev. M. Adams, and as late as 1848 when services were held in homes by the Rev. Abraham Fletcher. These missionaries came and went with no regularity, and at this time there was no organization and no established preaching places.

The first attempt to hold regular religious services in Taylor county was in the winter of 1849 and 1850 when there were less than 40 people living within the county limits. In the course of time the population of the county had increased enough to attract the attention of Iowa Methodism, and a missionary named Rev. William Rector with instructions to establish preaching places wherever practicable. His assignment was called the Page and Taylor County Mission.

In 1852 the Rev. Samuel Farlow from Ohio was sent to work in this area. He was followed in 1854 by Rev. Richard Mulholland, who was assisted on the circuit by Rev. J. M. Baker. Rev. Baker organized the first Church in Bedford in 1854.

The charter members of that first Methodist church in Bedford were: Judge Evans and wife, Mrs. Samuel Dale, Mrs. Amos Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Nash, William P. Long, E. J. Long, J. S. Hall, Hannah Long, Judge S. J. Hall, Anna Johnston, Daniel Martin, Sarah J. Underwood, Mrs. E. Martin, D. M. Gresson, James T. Johnston, N. B. Moore, Mrs. F. A. Fordyce.

From 1854 when the Bedford Church was a part of the Page and Taylor County Mission, until this day the church has had a continuous existence. It has been served under different "charge arrangements" which came for a time in rather rapid succession due to the rapid growth of the new area. For instance, the Page-Taylor County Mission was divided in 1856 into the Clarinda Circuit and the Taylor

County Mission, and Bedford was then served by Rev. Isaac Kelley. During the year, Rev. Mr. Kelley organized churches at Platteville, Brushy (later Gilead), Memory and Lexington. In 1859 the Taylor County Mission was divided, forming the Bedford Circuit.

Prior to 1860 there were no church buildings in Bedford, and the four churches - Baptist, Christian, Methodist and Presbyterian - held their services in the school house in the south part of town. However, in the year 1860 the four churches went together and built a frame church of native lumber. The Methodists and Presbyterians soon sold their interest to the Baptist and Christian churches, and

N. B. Moore, a member of the church.

The first Methodist church building was erected on the present site near the close of the year 1869. It was done by small gifts and much donated labor and represented a value of \$500. The parsonage was rebuilt in the year 1875 at a cost of \$483 and in 1881 it was found to be too small for the family of Rev. L. M. Walters, and the building was moved to the back of the lot and a new front was constructed, which is much the same as it now stands.

Bedford was made a station in the year 1877 with the coming of Rev. C. W. Blodget as minister, and this change made a marked differ-



BEDFORD METHODIST CHURCH TODAY

they went to the old stone court house for worship, having a combined Sunday school but separate preaching services.

In 1861 the Bedford Methodist church bought a lot on what is now the northwest corner of the court house square and intended to build a place of worship there. However, in 1867 the town council desired to purchase the lot to complete the court house square, so the deal was made and the church bought the present location.

The present parsonage location was purchased in 1861 from Atty.

ence in the growth and activity of the church. In 1887 Rev. E. W. McDade was appointed to the leadership of the church and soon it was decided to build a new church. A frame church was first decided upon, but the sentiment of the membership favored a brick building, and the present structure was erected. It was one of the first good church buildings in the Des Moines Conference. The corner stone was laid in May 1889 and the building was dedicated Dec. 8 of the same year.

—Rev. Robt. M. Peters
Present Minister

The Bedford Times-Press



Back row: Chub Greenway, Doc McMillen, Jim Forster, Donna Busby, Charles Hale

Front row: Sid Morris, Rosa Hosman and A. W. Hamblin

Mary



Dodie



Howdy Everybody!

We appreciate the opportunity
of bringing you our bit
each week in The Times-Press

It's been fun helping "Mother Bedford"
entertain in her first CENTENNIAL PARTY



**Old Frame Church
Sold To Be Used As
School In 1894**

On June 27, 1857, under the direction of Rev. L. G. Bell, an itinerant Presbyterian missionary, for the territory of Southwest Iowa, was organized the Presbyterian church known on the records as the "102 Church", located near Lexington, Taylor County, Iowa.

A Sunday school had been organized by Elder J. W. Windsor in Bedford in the Spring of 1859. On August 15, 1859, the 102 church met at the home of J. M. Windsor in Bedford, and the following persons were received by certificate; J. M. Windsor, Sarah Windsor, Sarah Leggett, Sarah, Ruth, Samuel, Elizabeth and Amanda Makimson and Margaret Miller.

J. M. Windsor was elected Ruling Elder. He was installed by Rev. Bell. Preaching services were held at this time at both Lexington and Bedford.

On September 21, 1860, at a meeting at Council Bluffs Presbyterian, Elder Windsor requested the name of 102 church be changed to "Bedford Presbyterian". From this date on it was called Bedford Presbyterian.

Public worship was first held in the old south school house. During severe cold weather, services were often held in the old courthouse. In 1873 the frame chapel and the lot on which the present structure stands were purchased from the Universalist organization for \$600. This building was used for church services until 1894, when it was sold to the Board of Education and moved to the west side of the public school grounds where it was used for school purposes.

Bedford's Presbyterian Church

**KNOWN IN 1875 AS
"THE 102 CHURCH"**

The present structure was erected in 1893-94 at a cost of \$15,000 and freed of debt on July 8, 1894. This church stands today a monument to the enterprise of the Presbyterians. Rev. T. A. H. Wylie was minister at that time.

A parsonage was built in 1872 and sold to Wm. Faith in 1896. The present parsonage was built in 1921.

The Sunday school was founded in the Spring of 1859. The Ladies Missionary Society and Aid Society were of great value to the church; these two societies have now been combined and are now known as the Women's Association. There were also two Christian Endeavor Societies for the activities of the young people in devotional and social life.

The church has been served by these ministers:

Rev. W. M. Stryker (Stated Sup-

ply) from September 1, 1859 to March 20, 1864; Rev. Wall served (as Stated Supply) for about three months some time during the close of the Civil War; Rev. S. A. MacElhaney served one year as supply 1868 to 69; Rev. A. F. Randolph was the first resident pastor from 1869-76; Rev. R. A. McKinley D. D. from 1878-84; Rev. A. L. Sarchet Phd. from 1884-90; Rev. T. G. Pearce Stated Supply from 1890-92; Rev. T. A. H. Wylie 1892-96, died July 11, 1896; Rev. E. N. Ware, 1896-1902; Rev. R. L. Barrackman 1903-06; Rev. S. E. Henry 1907-11; Rev. J. A. Currie 1911-20; Rev. Marshall Lumbar, Rev. Paul Luce, Rev. Claude McMican, Rev. Robert Boshen, Rev. Stanley Schlick 1938-42; Rev. A. A. Ross 1942; Rev. G. F. MacLean 1945-50; Rev. Walter Schiel 1951-52; Rev. C. D. Loehr, April 1953.

—Mrs. Henry Barr

Present Church Erected in 1893-94



CENTENNIAL GREETINGS



WE WEREN'T HERE 100 YEARS AGO but
Good Business Ideals were and —

On those same ideals of quality and
service we have built our business

—John Deere

—Authorized Sales & Service

—Massey-Harris

for DeSoto & Plymouth



Wilson Implement & Auto Co.

“Satisfied Customers Are Our Biggest Asset”

"The people had a mind to work . . ."

Zion Church

Mrs. Overholt and I were the pastors of the United Missionary church at New Market, Iowa, from 1934 until 1945.

Several years after our moving to New Market, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bebout of Bedford began attending the church there. They were deeply concerned about the people of Bedford and wanted a church started there.

At first we held services in their home in Bedford. Finally we found an abandoned African Baptist church in Bedford, padlocked, the yard grown up in weeds and the building in very bad condition, inside and out.

The building was finally purchased, the Bebouts paying the largest part of the bill. The padlock was taken off, and persons like

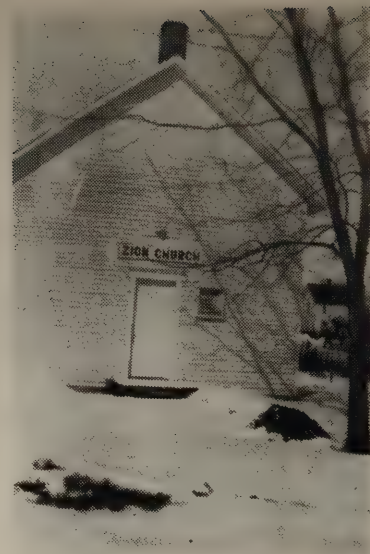
Frank Townsend, Mr. Alloway, Mr. Brown and others, and persons from New Market came, all joining in fixing the church for services . . . "the people had a mind to work".

A new roof was put on, rubbish taken from the church, floors cleaned, seats and pulpit varnished, the platform lowered, yard graded and cleaned, cement walks put in, church plastered, outside painted.

About 1948 we lowered the ceiling and have papered it, and when we get the new floor in we think we will have a real neat church.

Church was first dedicated on November 12, 1939.

Among the faithful who have knelt at our altar of prayer and found peace in their souls, and



have since passed on to their eternal reward are Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bebout, Mrs. Chas. Barnes, Mrs. Amanda Robbins, John Armstrong. Others have moved away. Frank Townsend is about the only one left of those who attended the church in its early days.

—Rev. and Mrs. T. J. Overholt

CENTENNIAL ADVERTISING

Centennial advertising appears in this edition as a record of Bedford business firms.

Read all of the ads - You'll find they tell a story that's fascinating.

1853 — 1953

USED CARS

Even if one of our used cars dated back to

1853

and we sold it, you could depend on it for

many more miles of dependable service!

A. M. BIERS CO.

Oldsmobile Sales - Service

HAVING SERVED FOR TWENTY YEARS



Twenty years have passed since we began serving this community. We have earnestly tried to give that service the touch of sympathy we have felt in our hearts for those who have had need for our help.

We are glad to join in the CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE and to join hands with those this year who are paying tribute to the hardy Pioneers who founded our State and our Town.

24 HOUR AMBULANCE SERVICE

Shum Funeral Home

BEDFORD, IOWA

Floyd Shum

Boyd Novinger

EARLY TAYLOR COUNTY DOCTORS

Pioneers Were Healthy; Doctors Not Too Busy

Early medical service to Bedford and the surrounding countryside was furnished by well trained and respected practitioners. The trust reposed in the family doctor of that distant day was a personal tribute to his character, as well as his service.

The average family, however, was healthy and not inclined to exercise great concern over what was considered common ills and minor disabilities that might yield to home remedies. In consequence of this generally independent attitude toward health and because "doctor bills" were thought to be an unfortunate incident in the family economy, the doctor was often called only in what seemed to be an emergency. With this limitation on his practice, the pioneer doctor was compelled to resort to other means of income. The most common outside enterprise was to open a drug store, either with family assistance or in partnership with a pharmacist.

Perhaps the best remembered doctor of Bedford was Dr. A. M. Golliday, a Rush Medical college graduate of 1869, who in the following year erected a frame store on one of his lots on the south side of Main street to conduct a drug business there in connection with his practice until his death, soon after the turn of the century. Dr. Golliday was a well educated and dignified professional gentleman, a successful practitioner in his early years, and while serving his community accumulated a good estate. A portion of the land he owned is now Bibbins Park. Two other early practitioners of local distinction, Dr. Vanvorhis and Dr. M. C. Connett, were also associated with drug stores in connection with their practice.

About the same period, Dr. A. B. Guthrie located in Bedford and built a frame office on west Main street adjacent to his home. Dr. Guthrie, a former Civil War surgeon, enjoyed a good practice during his active years and was further esteemed for his civic uprightness and support of his church. The family name was also enriched in early Bedford history by Mrs. Guthrie, who in addition to her home duties applied former training to become an able and loved teacher in the public schools.

There were other physicians of early Bedford, noted for citizenship and for professional devotion to duty. Dr. W. S. Swearingen was the elder of these, who enjoyed the esteem and patronage of the community. Dr. Wm. F. Randolph established his practice as a young man in the 1870's and in addition to his medical services won merited recognition during later years as a civil servant and served as mayor of Bedford for several terms.

Dr. S. S. Widener, an able practitioner, served Bedford with great energy and success through several decades.

In the 1890's Dr. V. R. King transferred his practice from the eastern part of this county to Bedford and was assisted by Mrs. King, who held a medical degree and specialized in diseases of women. Dr. H. F. Dunlavy was well established in practice in this period and also operated a drug store. Dr. J. W. Beauchamp succeeded to the practice of Dr. Widener in 1891 and for over 40 years served as a respected and able practitioner.

In 1936, Dr. Beauchamp was honored by the American Medical Association as the only doctor of that date who had served the longest, - over 60 years in active American medical practice.

Dr. C. M. Paschal began practice in the north part of Taylor county in 1875, was elected and served two terms in the Iowa Legislature before locating in Bedford for practice in 1890. After some years of successful service he erected a brick office on west Main street and installed the most extensive medical library in the county. He was also the prime mover in organizing the Taylor county Medical Society.

Dr. A. A. Archer transferred from Conway to Bedford in this period and received merited recognition. At the height of his career he erected a commodious brick office, stocked with an ample medical library and affording well planned connecting treatment rooms. He was among the first doctors of the county to operate motor transportation in attending his large practice.

Dr. J. P. Standley, a native son of Taylor county, was the son of a pioneer physician, Dr. J. R. Standley, who located in the eastern part of the county in 1855 and practiced there until his death in 1907. Dr. J. P. Standley came to Bedford well equipped professionally and entered into strenuous years of successful practice. On his land in the eastern townships, he maintained a herd of elk; each year he slaughtered the excess animals to distribute meat at Thanksgiving for charitable purposes. By study and post-graduate work he became qualified in the specialty of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat practice. While in local practice, Dr. Standley operated motor transportation, being the first doctor in the county to own and drive the early tiller-steer Olds automobile, for his professional calls.

—Dr. M. B. Dunning

1910 - 1953



Established by the present owner on July 15, 1910, this drug store has continuously served Bedford since that time.

During your Centennial visit to our town, we invite you to visit our store.

AHRENS





Back row: left to right: Audrey Cox, Ted Anderson, Irma Hill, Leona Beard, Antha Robbins, Evelyn Townsend, Duane Gillette, Lois Sharp
Front row: Lois DeVoe, Beverly Burroughs, Donna DeVoe, Martha Stickelman, Stella Marley

In 1904 Bedford and community were served with three telephone systems, The Northwestern Bell, The Farmers Mutual and an Anderson line. The latter was for sale and a partnership of Beauchamp and Ash was formed to take it over. Since that time the partnership was dissolved and H. S. Ash became sole owner. The Mutual system was absorbed and the Bell business was taken over, and the business operated under the name of Bedford Telephone Company.

In 1931 a corporation was formed, known as the Taylor County Service Co. It operated under this name with Mr. Ash as owner and manager until 1946. L. Guy Young then acquired control of the company and it continued operating as a corporation until November 1947, when the Western Light & Telephone Company Inc., Dodge City, Kansas bought the Company and it is operating now under that name.



**Pink Phelps, Phyllis Allen,
 Marcene Rowen**

Today the Company lines serving Bedford and the rural communities surrounding Bedford carries approximately 1100 miles of wire. Toll lines to other communities 110 miles of wire.

Western Light & Telephone Company, Inc.



We Congratulate Bedford On Her Centennial . . .

Front row, left to right: T. O. Croy, deputy sheriff; Pauline Hooper, deputy auditor; W. A. Houck, auditor; Ruth Wilson, clerk county superintendent; Edith Ackley, deputy auditor; Lu Johnston, deputy clerk; Nora Morris, board of social welfare; M. D. Lewis, treasurer.

Second row: Harry E. Lucas, sheriff; Martha Taylor, selective service; Lulu Franklin, ladies lounge; Lula Mae Beck, clerk, assessor's office; Minnie Jared recorder; Alleen Longfellow, welfare office; Lorraine O'Dell, county attorney's secretary; Elsie Dougan, welfare director.

Third row: Clyde Owens, board of social welfare; Sue Houck, assessor's office; Ora C. Cade, supervisor; Ralph Clayton, supervisor; Edna Lacy, second deputy treasurer; Beverly Thornton, welfare worker; Nell Smith, deputy treasurer; Wilma Novinger, clerk of courts.

Fourth row: Howard Spicknall, county superintendent of schools; O. E. Bricker, supervisor; Dave Terbell, assessor; C. A. Burwell, board of social welfare; A. Elton Jensen, county attorney; Dorothy Walker, welfare office; Albert Salen, custodian. Absent Martha Smith, deputy recorder, Mae Kuhn, deputy assessor; Robert Gibson, county engineer.

TAYLOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

1953

State Line Dispute Was Bedford in Iowa or Missouri?

Iowa and Missouri Almost Had a War; Settled by U. S. Supreme Court in 1848

Was it part of Iowa or was it a part of Missouri? That was a controversial question that was finally settled after a threatened war over in the eastern part of the state, much action by commissions representing both states, and a final action by the United States Supreme Court.

In 1848 the United States Supreme Court voted in favor of Iowa. William B. Miner of Missouri and Henry B. Hendershot of Iowa were appointed commissioners to re-survey the boundary line and mark it with an iron post every ten miles.

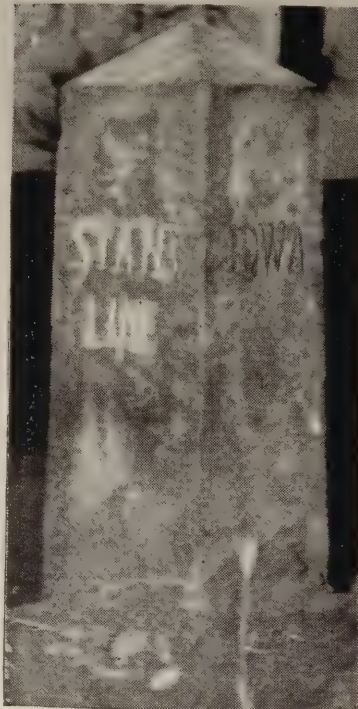
Pictured here is one of the iron posts as it stands today a short distance west of Athelstan, Iowa.

Below is the story of the boundary dispute between Iowa and Missouri printed in a history of Van Buren county, of which Keosauqua is the county seat.

The ripples in the Des Moines River near Keosauqua were the cause of the "Honey War", the boundary dispute between Missouri and Iowa.

In 1816, J. E. Sullivan, a government surveyor, had established the Northern boundary of the Territory of Missouri, mentioning the "Rapids of the Des Moines" as one of the boundary marks.

In 1837 the State of Missouri appointed commissioners to re-survey the Northern boundary. The commissioners found ripples in the Horse Shoe Bend near Keosauqua, in the Des Moines River, which they assumed to be the "Rapids of the Des Moines" named in the Act of Congress defining the boundary. These ripples, however, had never before been called the Rapids of the Des Moines. The real Rapids are in the Mississippi River, extending from the confluence of the Des Moines with the Mississippi, about eleven miles upstream, to the town of Montrose.



The conflict over the disputed territory—a strip about eight miles wide, just below Keosauqua—began when Clark County, Missouri placed the names of the citizens in the territory on its tax list. When the Missouri officers tried to collect the taxes for Clark County, the settlers in the disputed section refused to pay them, and when the sheriff tried to collect the delinquent taxes, he was arrested on a warrant issued by a magistrate of Van Buren County, and clapped into jail at Muscatine.

About this time a Missourian cut down three bee trees on the disputed tract and the Iowan who owned the trees had him arrested and tried before an Iowa Magistrate. A judgment for one dollar and fifty cents was rendered against the Missourian, and the term "Honey War" was applied locally to the conflict.

The arrest of their sheriff so angered the Clark County citizens that they petitioned Governor Boggs of Missouri for military aid. The Governor called out the militia of one thousand men to help the Clark County officers collect the tax.

Governor Lucas of Iowa then called out the Iowa militia, in which many citizens of Van Buren eagerly enrolled. In a short time about six hundred men were camped in Van Buren county and six hundred others were on their way.

Before hostilities could begin, however, a delegation was sent to Governor Lucas to settle the controversy peacefully. Missouri withdrew her troops and the Iowa militia was disbanded.

General A. C. Dodge of Burlington, General Church and Dr. Clark of Fort Madison were sent to Missouri to settle the dispute. Upon their arrival they found that the County Commissioners of Clark County, Missouri had rescinded their order for the collection of taxes, and that Governor Boggs had dispatched messengers to Iowa who proposed submitting the case to the United States Supreme Court.

LAND CLAIMS

When the county was organized there was no general land office nearby, so settlers held land by right of preemption and claim. A settler might hold 160 acres with the privilege of buying it at \$1.25 an acre. Up to 320 acres might be purchased although the buyer could not be sure of getting it because it often was again sold to the highest bidder. Speculators came in, purchased the better land and ousted the settlers who had been tilling what they thought to be their own lands. After a general land office was opened at Council Bluffs, settlers hurried to record their claims.



Behind these CENTENNIAL BEARDS are FRIENDLY personalities, ready to serve you. We handle those famous PHILLIPS 66 GAS & OILS, provide quick tank wagon service, do careful car washing and greasing. If you need tires, we can equip your "horseless carriage" or your modern streamlined auto with new tires.

During the next 100 years be MOTOR-WISE and trade at the

Beemer & Gold Oil Company

Bedford, Iowa

Gravity, Iowa



YOU MAY REMEMBER

Kinnison's Livery Barn

BUT DO YOU REMEMBER G. W. STREETER?



"Capt." George Wellington Streeter, shown above in the driver's seat of the old Bedford House stage, is one Bedford resident who figured nationally.

Many years ago it was Streeter, then an itinerant lake boat operator, who claimed squatter's rights on 160 acres lakeshore land in Chicago after his houseboat had been cast up on the shore by heavy wind.

Attorneys checking the records, could find no Government patent

on the land, located at the foot of Michigan Avenue, which if he could have held his claim, would have made him one of the richest men in the Midwest. Repeated efforts to oust Streeter and his wife met with armed rebuff.

Streeter's houseboat remained on the beach despite a legal barrage which continued until, sometime later, he was removed under Riparian Rights which classed the ground on which the boat settled

as silt land legally attachable to the ground adjoining it.

The photo, above, was taken in front of the old Clark Kinnison Livery barn, then located across the street east from Cobb's Ice Cream plant. Mr. Kinnison is standing beside the old Bedford House bus.

In later years Kinnison's barn was located in the building now occupied by the Central Motors, on east Main street.

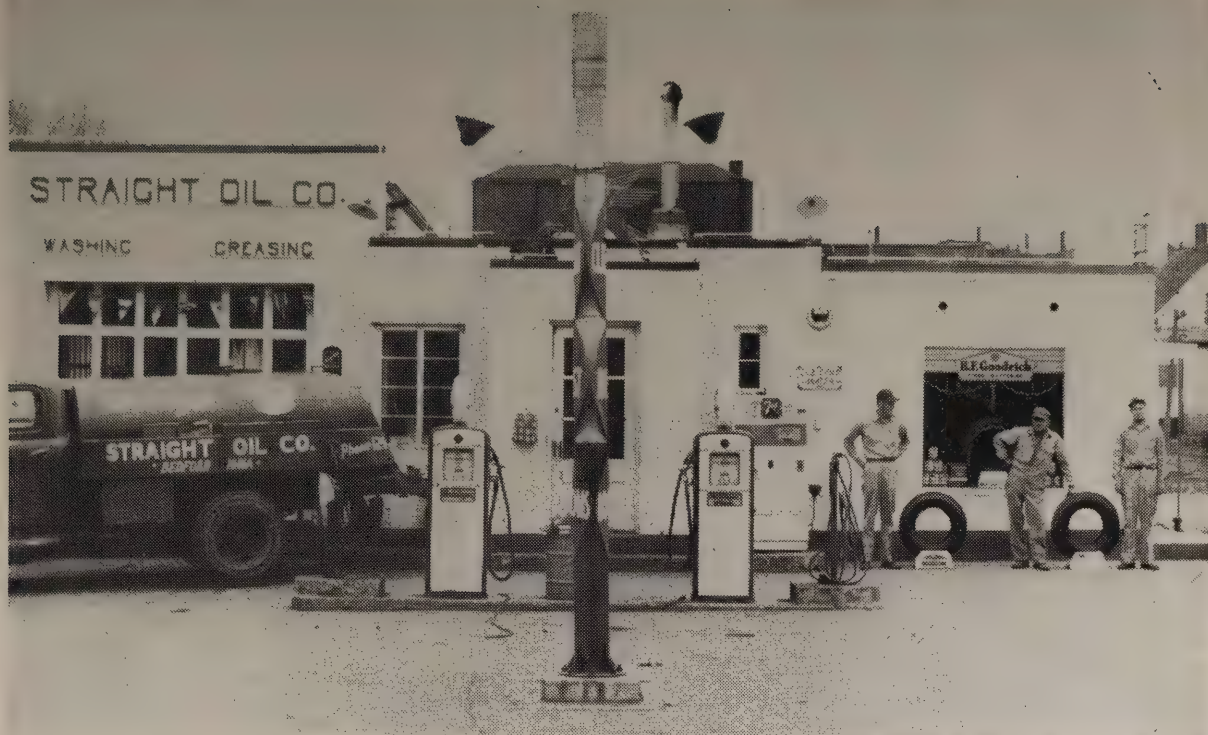
THE FIRST BLACKSMITH SHOP IN BEDFORD . . .

The first blacksmith shop in Bedford was "opened for business" by Isaac Walker Coon shortly after he and his family came here from Indiana in the 1850's. In the days of the one horse shay, Coon's Blacksmith Shop stood on the northeast corner of Court and Washington streets where the Biers Motor Company is now located.

Although Coon's shop has long since been torn down, many Bedford residents will remember the tree of immense proportions that he planted near his shop. Coon, noted among horse owners as an expert wheelwright and blacksmith, had two sons, Mose and Isaac Newton Coon, who left Bedford to serve in the Civil War.

Lacking an official record, the family assumed that Mose was killed in the service of the Union.

Isaac Newton Coon married Helen Cobb and the couple lived on a farm in Ross township until his death at the age of 27. Mrs. Esther (Roy) Reith, Bedford teacher, is the great granddaughter of Isaac Walker Coon.



Drive in for
MOBILGAS SERVICE
Charlie's Mobil Service
"Charlie & Jim"
—PHONE 129—
For Tank Wagon Delivery
Straight Oil Co.

Frosty Trete
Drive in for Refreshments
—
MALTS - SUNDAES - ROOT BEER
& HOT DOGS
—

Glenn & Luella Straight
Owners





Bob Bristow, Gene Valentine, Elfie Thompson, Evan Vredenburg

**In The Centennial Year and for
The Future We Offer—**

QUALITY MEATS & GROCERIES

With A Reputation of
Over 20 Years of Service
to Bedford and Taylor County



When you think of GROCERIES remember:

YOUR

Bedford Wholesale Fruit Company

E. C. Vredenburg, Mgr.

FOR 20 YEARS we have been in this location—



—in the FEED and GRINDING BUSINESS. We are happy to be a part of Bedford's 100 years.

**BLAIR
CERTIFIED
FEED
1865**

Floyd H. Van Reenen Feed Co.

Sargent's, Swift's & Blair's Certified Feeds
Portable Milling

Phone 319 — Bedford, Iowa

**SARGENT'S
FEED
MADE SINCE
1890**

S & G Store

WE introduce our regular sales
force who will gladly serve you.



Annabelle, Lola
Melba, Leila



Life for the Early Settlers would have been
easy if they could have had our Modern Ser-
vices.

We solve problems of
plumbing, heating and metal work.

Terrell & Son



BILLY KEMERY ON ENGINE

Farm Life 100 Years Ago . . .

A Striking Contrast To That of 1953

The pioneer farmers of Taylor county displayed courage, supreme endurance, almost unbelievable ability to clear the land and establish those first farms. They were a self-sustaining group of resourceful men and women who improvised for practically all their needs.

Those few scattered farms of 100 years ago were unpretentious as contrasted to the modern Taylor county farm. The typical pioneer farm home was furnished primarily with "home-made" furniture. The more prosperous tiller of the soil had a pot bellied stove and a wood burning range; but many others were content with an open fireplace for heating and cooking. On the floors, if they had any covering at all, were rag rugs padded with straw. "Body rest" mattresses were made of feathers or straw placed on a crude but sturdy bed without springs.

Those first farmers of this area depended on horses and cattle raised on their farms for their farm power. Horses and cattle were also used to transport products to market. Some of those enterprising farmers used dogs, sheep, or goats to "power" the

tread mills for pumping water or for similar tasks. It was many years before the steam engine was available as power for the threshing crew. The pioneer farmer of Taylor county was "born 70 years too soon" to reap the benefits of the row crop tractor that gave agriculture its biggest revolutionary change about 1930.

Those first farmers of this quarter of Hawkeyeland soon learned that the most fertile soil was in prairie in the uplands with narrow belts of woodland existing along streams and rivers. Later, men learned that the soil of this area is a result of drift from the Nebraskan and the Kansan glaciers. This was covered by a thin layer of wind-blown soil from the Missouri river bottom. Numerous though his worries were, the early Taylor county farmer had no problems of erosion control, nor maintenance of soil fertility.

Today's farm is a far cry from that of 100 years ago. Electricity has brought about many changes making the farm home far more efficient and comfortable. Gas or oil now heat the rural home while radio or television entertain the 1953

farm family. According to a 1953 issue of CAPPER'S FARMER, "The old-fashioned soil-tiller who 'lived off his land' buying only a little salt and sugar is a rapidly vanishing species. A survey shows modern agricultural households shifting to 'store bought' food—that 99% of farm families use packaged breakfast cereals; 59% buy sliced bacon in packages; 50% of the farmers serve margarine."

The 1953 farmer is using the most up-to-date machinery, tractors, cultivators and corn pickers which were unknown to the "back-breaking" pioneer farmer. Many of today's Centennial observers can remember when the threshing machine was discarded for the combine and when the corn picker was first perfected.

Soil conservation practices are increasing, hybrid corn is used almost exclusively, and breeding practices have increased the quality of livestock. Nearly every farmer rides to town in a modern car on gravel or concrete roads. All in all, farming has drastically changed since that crude plow broke the first plot of ground in Taylor county.

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS from Bedford Lawyers of 1953 . . .



W. E. Crum, Jr., James A. Lucas, Robert L. Burt, Wm. Meikle, A. Elton Jensen, M. R. Brant, Ralph C. Jones

Laws are the very bulwark of liberty; they define every man's rights, and defend the individual liberties of all men.

J. G. Holland

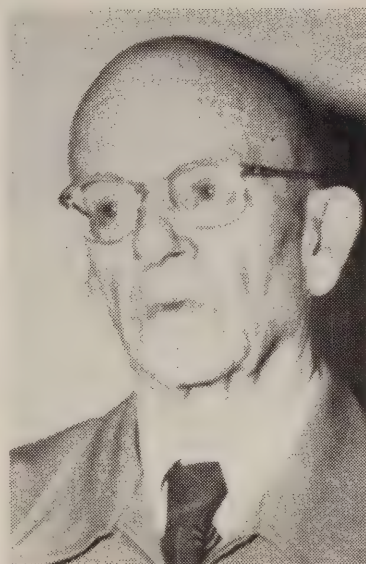


A Home Owned Industry
doing business with and for
home folks .

1919 - 1953

Farmers Coop. Elevator Co.

Bedford, Iowa



Hotel Garland

"Your Home
Away From Home

J. B. Whitaker, Prop.



Front Row, left to right: Joe Heasley, C. C. Mohler, James Martin, John Barton, J. P. Flick, Wm. Payton, A. B. Wakeman, Joe Minor, Howard Hensley, W. F. Evans.
Second row: J. B. Coup, David Bailey, Addison Parrish, Albert Jobbins, Wm. Wilkins, N. D. Kelly, Mart Lowrey, Richard Baille, Alex John

WAR BETWEEN THE STATES . . .

When President Lincoln on April 15, 1861 proclaimed a state of war between the states and called out the Union militia, there started a feverish era in Bedford history, during which many of its sons took up arms to defend the North.

Even from what is considered authentic sources, only limited reports came of the many campaigns in which Bedford's contingent had a part. Lyman Evans' "History of Taylor County" which covers the period most thoroughly supplies the main source of Bedford's part in the Civil War.

FOURTH REG'T. - CO. K

The group of residents which probably experienced the most service was in Company K of the Fourth Regiment, Col. G. M. Dodge, commanding. First assigned, Aug. 24, 1861 to Rolla, Mo. the unit was later sent, on July 14, 1862 to Helena, Ark., where it formed a part of the Army of the Southwest. Engagements included Pea Ridge, Ark., Chickasaw Bayou, Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, Jackson, the Campaign Against Atlanta and, eventually, Sherman's famous March to the Sea. Mustered out at Louisville, Ky., it was finally disbanded at Davenport, Iowa. Officers included Geo. W. Friedley, first lieutenant; Persens R. Crisp, second lieutenant; N. D. King, first sergeant, all Bedford men.

29th IOWA, - CO. F

Company F of the 29th Iowa Infantry, with Col. Thomas H. Burton, jr. commanding, formed a part of the great Army of the South-

west. Strictly a Taylor county unit, the company engaged in the Battle of Helena, Ark. on July 4, 1863 and in the battles of Arkansas Post and Spanish Fort. Officers were James Brooks, captain; L. B. Nash, first lieutenant; Ezekiel Rose, first sergeant, and Alex John, corporal.

FOURTH CAVALRY

The Fourth Cavalry, recruited in Missouri by Union sympathizers, has no engagement records insofar as history shows. Bedford men, on its rolls, included: Company E - Joseph Park, captain; E. D. Fenno, lieutenant; Columbus Dale, sergeant. Company G - L. T. McCoun, captain, (resigned July 1862 to join Co. D, 46th Infantry); A. B. Vansickle, first lieutenant; B. Wilson, second lieutenant.

46th INFANTRY

The 46th Infantry, a non-combat unit, was enlisted to serve a term of 120 days. First dispatched to Cairo, Ill. on June 14, 1864, it reported to Gen. Washburne at Memphis, Tenn. and a week later was sent to Colliersville, Tenn. to protect railroad property. The group was mustered out at Davenport, Ia. Sept. 23, 1864. Officers included L. T. McCoun, captain; Ira Harrington, second lieutenant; C. C. Wolf, first sergeant.

NINTH IOWA CAVALRY

Organized in 1863 the Ninth Iowa Cavalry was stationed at Camp Kinsman near Davenport. It saw service after April 1864 in capturing guerilla bands and was assigned to guard Duvall's Bluff, Ark., a supply depot of Gen. Steele's

army. John Flick was captain of Co. B; Edgar D. Fenno was first sergeant.

BORDER BRIGADE

The Southern Border Brigade was assigned to guard the Iowa-Missouri line to prevent raids into border counties. Its formation was authorized by the Iowa Legislature in an extra session. On July 5, 1861 the brigade was called to Nodaway county, Missouri when it was rumored that bands of Confederate soldiers were marching north to drive Union-sympathizing farmers from their lands.

The brigade was again called into service on July 10 because of a rumor that Confederates were massing in Gentry and Worth counties, Missouri, intent on raiding southern townships of Taylor county. The rumor proved to be false but, although Taylor county had no border bloodshed, some clashes did occur in Fremont, Ringgold, Van Buren and Davis counties. Original officers of this Brigade included John Flick, captain; David Smith, lieutenant; W. S. Hamilton, sergeant; A. P. Evans, bugler.

SEDGWICK POST NO. 10

When Bedford's Civil War heroes returned, Sedgwick Post No. 10 G.A.R. was formed with 49 charter members. Receiving its charter June 7, 1883, the post's first commander was Lt. William F. Evans and at one time boasted a total of 309 members. Last commander was William W. Wilkins who served until his death in 1928.



- We may not be the "PRETTIEST" outfit in town . . .
- We may not be the "BIGGEST" outfit in the country . . .
- We may not be the "MOST INTELLIGENT" outfit in the world . . .

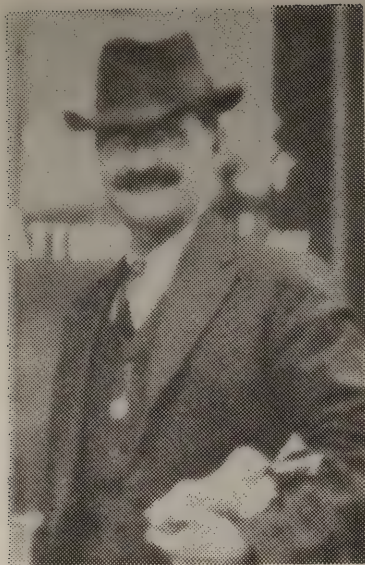
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BUT THIS WE KNOW FOR SURE:

- "PRETTY" or Not - THE HY-VEE personnel will serve you better than anywhere in town!
- "BIG" or Not - We have the most modern, Easiest to Shop In, Most Convenient store in the country . . .
- "INTELLIGENT" or Not - We know that customers are human and we offer them our desire to be the friendliest, most courteous servants in the world - which is what every good customer wants.

"Your" HY-VEE Food Store

Bedford, Iowa



John J. Clark
EDITED DAILY HERE

Newspapers That Have Served Bedford

"Iowa South-West" Was First in 1858

In February 1858, Joseph H. Turner's "Iowa South-West" made its first appearance in Bedford. At that time Bedford boasted a population of 300 inhabitants, in a county populated with three to four hundred more.

Financial arrangements were made with Houck, Ballou and Fouts, a press was purchased in St. Louis, shipped by river boat on the Missouri river to St. Joseph and hauled overland by team to Bedford. For a few years the Iowa South-West was suspended at the beginning of the Civil War before it was sold to S. Lucas in 1867.

In 1870 it was sold to Elwin Houck, and the ownership passed through several hands in a short time. In 1872 the name was changed to The Bedford Free-Press, and was published as such for a number of years.

Taylor County Tribune

In July 1860 a second paper, The Tribune was published in Bedford. R. F. Shoemaker had purchased the equipment of the Iowa South-West. A year later Shoemaker sold his paper to J. W. Snow, who changed the name to "The Taylor County Union."

The history of THE BEDFORD ARGUS started in 1872, with G. N. Udell as the editor, and ended in 1881 when the paper was sold to Pierce & Lucas, and its publication was ended.

The TAYLOR COUNTY REPUBLICAN was started in 1881 by Pierce & Lucas, newspaper men from nearby towns. Pierce soon left to publish the Iowa Homestead in Des Moines. The TAYLOR COUNTY DEMOCRAT started in

1880 by J. V. Faith, had a short duration. The TIMES-REPUBLICAN, purchased by J. J. Clark in 1887 was operated on the second floor of a building standing on what is now the Ahrens corner. In 1890 the Taylor County Republican, owned by a stock company, was sold to J. J. Clark, who erected the building in which the Times-Press is now located.

In 1890 Mr. Clark combined the Times-Independent and the Taylor County Republican to form the Times-Republican, which he published here a number of years as a daily, one of the few small town dailies in the state at that time. In 1908 Mr. Clark sold his paper, then a weekly to Merritt W. Campbell but bought it back in a few years to continue as its editor and publisher until his death in 1924. Kent Mason succeeded Mr. Clark as editor and publisher until 1932.

In 1932 G. N. Hadley started The TAYLOR COUNTY HERALD which he later sold to L. M. Shaw. In the fall of 1945 the Herald plant was purchased by the Times-Press.

Bedford Times-Press

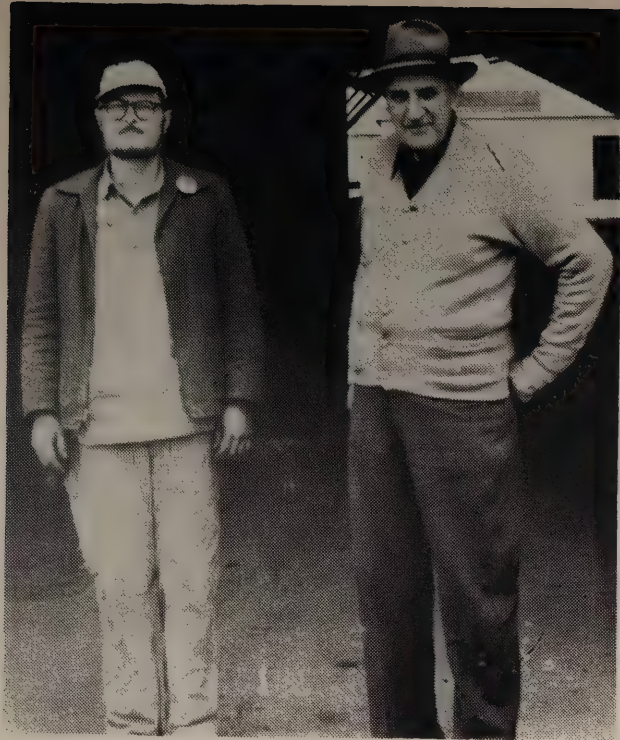
In 1917 A. C. Brice, jr. and A. W. Hamblin formed a partnership in owning the Bedford Free Press mailing list, using the Times-Republican plant to print their paper in the forepart of the week. The Free Press purchased its own equipment within the year and resumed a Thursday publication date.

In 1922 Brice withdrew from the partnership. In 1932 The Times-Republican and the Bedford Free Press were merged to form the Bedford Times-Press, under the ownership of A. W. Hamblin.

The MATHEW LUMBER COMPANY

We Celebrate
36 Years of
dependable service for
100 year old Bedford
and Taylor County

"Everything to build anything"



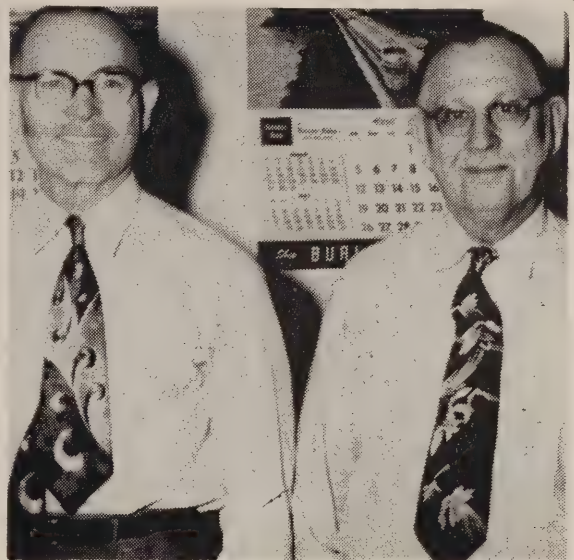
1907 — 1953

Dr. K. B. Paschal

Dentist

Phone 13-

Bedford, Iowa



THERE'LL COME A DAY . . .

When "Whisker Days" are
over and you want to
Modernize Your Face again.
Don't Forget: Our razors
still are in working order.

Oak Barber Shop

Homer Ranbarger

Tom Hosman

Many Bedford Men In War of 1898



LOCAL MEN SERVED IN COMPANY "I" IN PHILIPPINES . . .

Bottom row, left to right: Wm. Berry, Orville Bell, W. A. Halstead, Ren H. Fuller, Herman Franklin.
Second row, left to right: Bert Wyckoff, Wm. Shields, Arthur B. Evans, Col. M. Miller, William Livingston, Miss Flora Uri, Joe Shuff, John H. Chilcote, Archie Houston, Clyde Scherich.

Back row, left to right: Stowell Avery, Dr. N. J. Bates, Fred E. Payton, Ed Lawrence, G. W. Hook, Milton H. Allen, Clarence Moore, Sidney P. Webb, Roy Reed, Milo Fulton. Picture taken at Dr. and Mrs. M. C. Connett home in Bedford.

In April 1898 four Iowa National Guard regiments awaited orders to take the field against the enemy. Of these the 3rd Regiment furnished the foundation for the 51st Infantry Iowa Volunteers. Bedford had two officers and 43 men in Company I when the 51st was organized. The officers were Lt. Col. Marcellus Miller and Captain William H. Widner. Ren H. Fuller was made a First Lieutenant later. These men went off to Camp McKinley in Des Moines in the stirring spirit of '76 as did the other men pouring into that city to get ready for action.

Later at the Presidio in San Francisco, the welcome orders to go aboard the transport Pennsylvania came on November 3, 1898. The 51st then had to endure three long months aboard ship—a record at that time for troops to remain aboard their ship. The ship touched at Honolulu finally arriving at Manila where orders awaited to proceed to Cavite, P. I.

The 51st then participated in the occupation of San Roque on February 9, 1899. From March 5 until May 5th the Regiment was engaged in six different battles. From May 5th until July 4th the action took place at San Fernando, where again six battles were fought. Here

owing to illness of General Loper, Bedford's Lt. Col. Marcellus Miller commanded these important engagements. On August 9th battles at Calulut and Angeles marked the close of the active participation of the 51st in the Spanish-American War.

On September 6, 1899 the 51st moved to Manila preparatory to return to the United States. Aboard transport Senator it left Manila and arrived at San Francisco Harbor on October 22nd.

Arduous outpost work, occasional fighting, night attacks, sharp skirmishing, endurance of the rainy season marked the irksome monotonous life of the troops while on active duty. The 51st justly claimed the honor of being first into the rebel capital San Fernando. The men of the 51st, as all of the Iowa troops, were much commended by their commanding officers for their fine behavior in camp and on the battlefield.

Ren Fuller says that during the stay in San Francisco, from June to November, a wonderful lady, Miss Flora Uri, took great interest in the troops. Miss Uri adopted the boys of Company I.

Miss Uri knew and found each one who needed encouragement. Every one loved her, she was their

guardian angel. So much did she love them that she came to Iowa to see her boys, going from town to town until she had visited all of them. She was received with open arms. She still lives at 1849 O'Farrel Street in San Francisco though she had to have her secretary write the Christmas cards she sent the survivors last year.

Surviving members of Company I now living in Bedford are Ren Fuller, Wm. E. Parrish, Clyde Scherich and Harry Adams.

The members of Company I held encampments for many of the years since the war. They met in Council Bluffs, Creston, Red Oak or Bedford and other towns. The last one was six years ago.

The wives of these veterans have kept up a Dewey Auxiliary Number 17 of the Spanish American War. Mrs. Edna Hook is the secretary of this group of loyal women. There are nine members of the group left—Mrs. Edna (G. W.) Hook, Mrs. Zula (Frank) Marsh, Mrs. Edna (Beryl) Paschal, Mrs. Josie (Em) Chilcote, Mrs. Martha (Clyde) Scherich, Mrs. Nell E. (Fred) Payton, Mrs. Luella (Lloyd) Thurston, Mrs. Effie (Ward) Roberts, Mrs. Bess (Ren) Fuller.

—Ellen Beebe



—MEET OUR PERSONNEL—

Back row, left ot right: John C. Emmert, owner; C. D. Easter, shop foreman; John Gray, bodyman; Robert Saville, bodyman; Billy Carmichael, mechanic; Lloyd Dickerson, mechanic; Dick Johnston, salesman; Doc Polson, mechanic; Joe Peterson, accountant

Front row: June Thompson, mechanic; George Myott, parts manager; Dean Bradley, body shop foreman; Bill Million, mechanic; Jake Huss, maintenance; Jack Beemer, maintenance; Shorty Clark salesman; Alan Rood, lubrication.

. . . TO GIVE SERVICE

“TO GIVE SERVICE” - More than a Motto . . . The Settled Policy of this Firm . . . The Sincere Endeavor of Each Employee.

When a single idea takes possession of 17 people it becomes a powerful thing. It's that way with the “To Give Service” motto of this organization. We've worked at it, thought about it so much that now it is an important factor in our firm.

DRIVE IN . . . You'll find all of us ready and anxious to make that motto mean something to YOU, too.



The Bel Air 4-Door Sedan

Emmert Motor Sales



PRELUDE

The personnel of The Bedford National Bank has written this account of the events which have had an important effect on the banking institution and brings its history up to the present. The Bank paid for these two pages to present this history.

Bedford National Bank

In May, 1870, the history of The Bedford National Bank begins when W. E. Crum, after graduating in the law class of 1869 at the State University of Iowa, came to Bedford, Iowa to practice law. On April 26, 1870, he and Hattie Van Fleet were married and soon afterwards came to Bedford to make it their home. On May 10, 1871, John R. Van Fleet and his son-in-law, W. E. Crum, established and opened a bank with a Capital of \$5,000.00, under the name of Crum and Van Fleet Banking House. Mr. Van Fleet served as President of the new Bank with Mr. Crum as the Cashier and Hattie V. Crum as bookkeeper. The Bank was located in a one story frame building on Court Street, being at the north-west corner of the block in which the Bank now is located. This was south across the street from the old Stone Court House. Bedford then was only eighteen years old.

Safes for the Bank were hauled from Corning, Iowa, since Bedford did not have a railroad. One of the safes was opened by a key and the other a combination. A little later with no time locks on the safe the Jesse James gang and the Younger Brothers were robbing banks, one at Leon, Iowa, and one at Savannah, Missouri, and at nights after circuses were in town or there had been a large crowd, W. E. Crum would stay in the Bank with a riot gun by his side all night.

In 1873, there was a panic which ended the inflation caused by the Civil War. Sometimes prices were low and times were hard. In one of the following years the other bank failed.

During the year 1876, a brick building was built on Main Street for a Banking House. This building was located on the east half of the present location. The name of Crum and Van Fleet Banking House was changed to The Bedford Bank and its Capital increased to \$35,000.00

In 1881, Mr. Van Fleet died and his interest in the Bank was divided among his widow, Ellen Van

Fleet; Hattie Crum, Ella V. Henley, M. M. Van Fleet and Maude V. Porter who were his children. Hattie V. Crum became a share holder in 1881 and remained one until her death in 1928. W. E. Crum was in poor health and his doctor advised him to move to the country, so he did, and W. E. Crum sold his interest in the Bank to M. M. Van Fleet who was made Cashier.

In the fall of 1890, M. M. Van Fleet sold all his interest in the Bank to W. E. Crum and M. M. Van Fleet moved to Denver, Colorado. Mr. Crum was made President, which office he held until June 3, 1915.

In 1893, under the Grover Cleveland Administration, another panic occurred which was very severe, and there were business failures throughout the United States. In 1893, W. E. (Ed) Crum, jr., first worked in the Bank counting and wrapping pennies.

1896-7, McKinley and Bryan were candidates for the Presidency. McKinley on the gold standard and Bryan on the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. After McKinley was elected more gold was deposited in this Bank in two weeks than had been in years. During this campaign

HAD ITS BEGINNING ON COURT STREET IN 1871



contracts and notes were payable in gold. The Bank had always carried \$10,000.00 in gold coin in its vaults to meet any emergency. All gold coin was called in by the President of the United States in 1933 and then the United States went off of the gold standard basis.

1898 The Maine was sunk and war with Spain was declared.

On December 1, 1898, the Bedford Bank was reorganized into The Bedford National Bank with a Capital of \$50,000.00 and W. E. Crum was elected President. F. E. Walker was elected Vice President and Charles G. Martin was elected Cashier, all of whom were re-elected to June 3, 1915. The Charter Directors were the above mentioned officers together with J. M. Thompson and C. C. Mohler.

The panic of 1907 was due to the shortage of currency and the large city Banks went on a clearing house basis. Most of the Banks would not pay out currency. The Bedford National Bank was well supplied with currency and cashed its checks in currency. When President Teddy Roosevelt sent \$100,000,000.00 in gold coin to the New York Banks, the panic was ended.

(Continued to next page)

Bedford National Bank Today

1908 The present building now occupied by The Bedford National Bank was erected replacing the former brick building erected in 1876. The brick building adjoining it on the west was purchased and both were torn down in order to erect the building now occupied by the Bedford National Bank on Main Street.

On June 3, 1915, due to failing health, W. E. Crum resigned as President and W. E. Crum, jr. was elected President, an office he has held ever since. W. E. Crum was made Vice President and held this office until his death on July 26, 1916. Charles V. Dinges was elected as a Director February 26, 1916.

February 26, 1916, W. E. Crum died, having for forty years guided the bank through hard and good times.

1916 In April the first World War began.

1917 World War One continued and this bank was active in Taylor County in filling its quota in the sale of War Bonds. This year produced a short corn crop and this bank loaned \$250,000.00 to farmers to ship in corn to feed their stock.

1918 The Armistice was signed and the actual war was over.

1920 United States 4% Liberty Loan Bonds sold for 82.

1921 Charles G. Martin was elected Vice President and J. F. Longfellow was elected Cashier.

1928 The death of Charles G. Martin occurred on May 21, and John H. Dinges was elected Director to fill the vacancy caused by his death. Charles V. Dinges was elected Vice President.

1929 The stock market crash occurred on the New York Stock Exchange in the fall and values kept going down until half or more of the values vanished.

1931 Charles V. Dinges died on January 10.

1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President. Banks were closing all over the country. Cows sold from \$15.00 to \$35.00 per head. Hogs sold for \$3.50 per hundred. Corn sold for 13 cents per bushel.

1933 The President of the United States declared a Bank Holiday closing all Banks in the United States and at the end of same the Bedford National Bank was licensed by the Government to open and continue business unrestricted, it being the only Bank left in Taylor

BUILT IN 1908 - 407 MAIN



County, when in 1925 Taylor County had 17 Banks. (Things began to settle down and confidence was again restored.)

1934 The worst drouth year occurred with a scarcity of feed of all kinds.

1939 W. E. Crum III (Bill) was elected Assistant Cashier, a position that he now occupies.

1941 World War II declared following the Pearl Harbor attack. The Bedford National Bank sold hundreds of thousands of dollars of U. S. Bonds for the Government.

1944 W. E. Crum III, Assistant Cashier was inducted into the United States Army.

1945 J. F. Longfellow was elected Vice President and C. H. Cummings was elected Cashier, positions that they now occupy.

1950 The United States was engaged in a war in Korea which is still in full progress.

Ceiling prices were invoked.

Fat cattle sold over \$40.00 per hundred, hogs over \$30.00 per hundred, corn was sealed at \$1.50 per bushel. Three years later cattle

sold for \$24.00 per hundred, hogs sold for \$17.00 per hundred and the sealing price of corn remained about the same.

The Bank has always been a member of the Federal Reserve System and a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation since its beginning, deposits of customers were insured up to \$5,000.00 and since September 21, 1950, all depositors of National Banks are insured up to the amount of \$10,000.00.

The Capital Stock and Surplus of The Bedford National Bank is \$100,000.00. The present officers of the Bank consist of W. E. Crum, jr., President; J. F. Longfellow, Vice President; C. H. Cummings, Cashier; W. E. Crum III, Assistant Cashier, who with John M. Dinges are the present Directors. Lucile Trumbo and Delores Rowe are now the bookkeepers.

The customers and friends of The Bedford National Bank have made it the only continuous business in Bedford since its beginning in 1871.

There Is Something More To Masonry Than Its Temples of Brick and Stone

First meeting of record of Taylor Lodge is under date of February 1st, 1860 under dispensation of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

Hon. L. T. McCoun and N. B. Moore were the first members to be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on May 2, 1860 and Hon. L. T. McCoun retained membership for 70 years.

On June 18th, 1860 a Lodge of Master Masons was opened in due form and Bro. J. S. Rand presented the Lodge with the original Charter emanating from the Grand Lodge of Iowa. On motion an election of officers under the new Charter was held resulting as follows:

J. S. Rand, W.M., E. Cook, S.W., E. T. Smith, J.W., D. Underwood, Treas., J. M. Faulkner, Secy., N. B. Moore, S.D., L. T. McCoun, J.D., and Jas. Mitchell, Tyler. Whereupon Milton Phelps Deputy Grand Master of Masons in Iowa regularly installed the newly elected officers.

On May 25, 1863, a committee was appointed to wait on the Board of Supervisors to obtain a grant to fit up a Hall over the Court Room in the Court House and ascertain the probable cost. D. Underwood, John Evans and J. W. Wood composed the committee. On May 18th, 1864 the committee on furniture reported the purchase of two new hanging lamps at a cost of \$4.50 each, several chairs and other furniture was also purchased at this time.

September 18, 1864 the minutes reveal a bill was presented and allowed for \$1.50 in payment of a Seal for the Lodge. The first impression of said seal appears on the minute book under date of October 12, 1864 and said seal is still in use.

On March 8th, 1865 the Lodge moved to offer the school district the sum of \$1000.00 to finish a Lodge Hall in the attic of the school house. This offer probably was not accepted for on May 10, 1865 the minutes reveal the building committee was authorized to get a calculation on what a house would cost that would be suitable for a Masonic Hall—the size of said building to be 25 feet x 53 feet and to be financed by the sale of stock

shares in the sum of \$25.00 each, the committee on same being D. Dale, E. Houck and J. W. Wood. The minutes do not reveal any thing definite regards this venture either.

Thus we have in part some of the struggles this Lodge had in obtaining a meeting place—and so it is on down through the years—a rented hall first one place and then another around over Bedford, but never a Lodge home of their own, until through the kindness of Hon. George L. Finn, the lodge built its present Temple.

Mr. Finn, 1846-1929, who was made a Mason in Taylor Lodge No. 156 A. F. & A. M. September 10, 1881, remained a faithful member thereof until his death, when this

been built upon from year to year by those who have traveled this way before us. Is there something more to masonry than its temples of brick and stone, its secret work, its grips and signs and passes—do the teachings and traditions of more to Masonry than its temples ancient operatives out of the dim past of which there is no record, still hold their restraining influence over the craft that makes for good citizenship.

"A list of membership, the money received and spent, those petitioning, those rejected, those raised, those buried, are all to be found in the written minutes of any Lodge, but its real record, its true history is its honorable character and good American citizenship."



Lodge was named a beneficiary in his Will. With what funds they had on hand for this purpose, it was possible to erect in the year 1931 the beautiful brick Masonic Temple located on Court Street. The Temple was dedicated on May 17, 1935 - seventy-five years after the Charter was granted.

A short history of the Lodge was written by Bro. Kenneth E. Stephens for this occasion a portion of which states: "Surely those charter members laid a firm foundation for good citizenship that has

Thus we feel the influence of Taylor Lodge No. 156 A. F. & A. M. has had a very important part in the history building of our fair city down through its first 100 years.

The present officers are as follows: Albert Downing, W.M. John N. Steel, S.W. Loyd Larison, J.W. Dr. Earl Stone, Treas. Paul Morris, Secy. John Whitten, S.D. HK Russell, J.D. Dean Million, S.S. Richard Johnston, J.S. Rev. Robert M. Peters, Chaplain and Donald Haynie, Tyler. —Carl Cummings



Helen Owens, Eldon Pool, Mary and Les Galey, Bill Cross, Naomi Moore

1937

1953

GALEY FOOD STORE

Bedford, Iowa



- Bedford's First Strictly Cash Grocery
- Bedford's First Self-Serve Store
- First to offer Frozen Fresh Foods to Bedford Housewives.



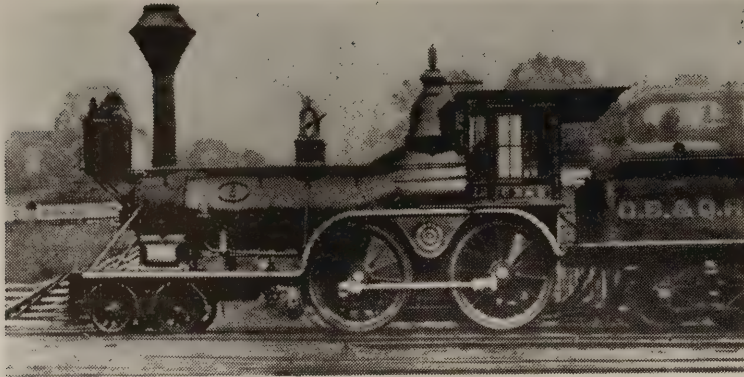
We have always featured top quality foods; Our pledge is to
continue to do so

Corner Court & Main Sts.

Phone 20

Hold Your Horses

Here Comes the Train!



"OLD NO. 9" FIRST C. B. & Q. ENGINE TO CROSS IOWA

Closely allied with the growth of Bedford is the railroad.

In truth it was the location of the Burlington's right-of way which was the final determining factor in making Bedford the county's Seat of Justice. But the railroad did not come to Bedford until late in 1871.

The line through Bedford was originally constructed as "The Creston branch of the Burlington and Missouri River (B & M) Railroad". This road was organized at Burlington, Iowa, on October 2, 1871 and its object was to build a railroad from a connection with the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad in Union county, Iowa near Creston south to the Iowa-Missouri state line near Hopkins, Mo. There it would connect with the Kansas City, St. Joseph and Council Bluffs Railroad.

Construction was started in August 1871 and the line was completed on January 21, 1872. Records of the company show that the firm constructing the line did not operate it. It later became the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy when that firm consolidated with the old B & M R. R. on January 1, 1901.

During the years following the turn of the century, Bedford saw its line carry four daily passenger trains, two daily freights, a regular mid-week livestock train as well as several extra freights.

Personnel of the station here at one time was comprised of two men, an agent and a telegrapher. This was later reduced to one man as the passenger trade diminished with the advent of the automobile.

Early day timetables, still on record in Burlington offices show

Bedford had southbound passenger trains at 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The northbound passenger trains arrived here at 12:45 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. All carried mail.

Bedford's first railway station was located approximately 100 yards north of where the present station stands. It was small, single story and lighted by kerosene lamps as was the signal semaphore at trackside.

Because of the low terrain and repeated floods which completely inundated the depot, this building was moved in 1917 to where the present station stands, by a bridge crew who hitched the building to a railway locomotive. The station was enlarged to the extent of the present waiting room, the original structure being used as the foundation for the rebuilding plans.

Frank Beebe Is the Dean of Auto Men . . .

Frank Beebe began driving and servicing cars in Bedford in 1903 and he is still at it, making him the oldest car driver and servicer in this part of the state.

He says the first car owner in Bedford was Dr. J. P. Standley, who owned a tiller-steered Olds, that cranked from the side, carried

its radiator beneath the front end, and had wooden wheels.

In 1903 and for a few years, a car owner paid the state a dollar for a license number that came stamped on an aluminum disc. The number was good for the life of the car. The owner would paint it on a shingle for display or if real class in tastes, he could use aluminum

house numbers fastened to a patent leather pad.

In 1903 all cars were built under the Selden patent, excepting Fords and up to the present time more than 2,500 different makes of cars have been offered motorists.

Joel Weeks is believed to have been the owner of the second automobile in Bedford.



Front row, left to right: Arthur Wilson, Melvin Moon, Darwin Lacy.
Back row: Donald Crawford, Martha Anderson, Chas. Varley.

ELECTRICITY COMES TO TOWN

- 1897 - C. Wilber Wiley Electric Co. built first Bedford plant, located where Farmers Coop. now stands.
- 1902 - Plant purchased and expanded by M. L. Burt with Dot Blake as lineman and installer.
- 1910 - Plant sold to Smith & Hastee who operated plant until 1915
- 1915 - Lee Electric Co., Clarinda, closed local plant and brought highline from Clarinda to Bedford.
- 1924 - Iowa Nebraska Light & Power purchased Lee interests.
- 1943 - Iowa Power & Light Co. purchased Iowa-Nebraska holdings and have since operated under a franchise granted only a few years ago.

Iowa Power & Light Company

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNING

Bedford's Fire Department

GROWN TO ONE OF BEST IN STATE



Members of Bedford's Volunteer Fire Department Today are: Front row, left to right: Carl Snyder, assistant chief; Don Lowry, Walter Alexander, vice pres.; Forrest Hanshaw, Bill Crum, secy.; Glen Straight, Fred Wyckoff, Ray McMullen. Back row: Ray Johnson, Arthur Wilson, Frank Bowen, Jack Gold, Kendell Terrell, Clarence Catuska, Max Masker, Tuffy Johnson, Paul Wogan, Bob Varley, Max Keith, Cliff Hanshaw, pres., Phil Terry, Ollie Keith, Paul Trambo, T. E. Brown, Roy Volkmar, Claude Hooper, treas., Bud Wetmore, Ben Scane, chief.

From a humble beginning, where the only fire protection offered Bedford was a neighborhood bucket brigade, to the present department of 30 active members and equipment including two fully equipped trucks, is the history of the Bedford Fire Department.

First minutes of the organization were brief: "Pursuant to the call of many citizens of Bedford a meeting was held in the Court House on Saturday, March 17, 1883 for the purpose of organizing a fire department."

A new fire hall—the same one now occupied—was completed on January 1, 1884. The fire bell, still used here in emergency cases, was purchased and hung in March of 1884.

Not all the fire meetings were devoted strictly to business as is shown by one entry under date of June 17, 1884 which reads: "Motion made and seconded that every man wanting to use chewing tobacco while attending meeting, bring his own spittoon. - Carried."

Highlighting the department's records are the following entries as listed under dates of occurrence. They include:

January 1885 - First fire wagon bought but the department had no team. First hostler to the station with a team was paid \$2.50 for the call. Competition was brisk.

January 1886 - First fire team bought with funds provided

through donations by citizens of Bedford. No entry was made of the price paid.

January 1903 - First hand-drawn hose carts were bought to augment fire wagon. This was the first equipment purchased after city water was made available to fire fighters.

January 1907 - Bedford's first big fire, a \$12,000 loss to the Bedford Creamery.

December 1910 - Bedford Times-Republican office burned. Firemen hampered by no available water because standpipe was dry.

January 1911 - A. L. Bibbins Drug Store fire, a \$23,000 loss to building, stock and adjoining stores.

February 1915 - Name of the company was changed to The Bedford Fire Department.

September 1915 - Fire Department competed in a tournament at Clarinda, winning every event but one and bringing home a total cash purse of \$415.00. The one loss, carrying a dummy from the roof of a "blazing structure" disqualified Bedford's team because they handled the dummy "too roughly". Judges claimed man had better be burned to death than mauled into grave by a group of lifesavers.

November 1919 - First fire whistle purchased and installed by City.

December 1921 - Bedford's first motor fire truck, a Model T Ford, was purchased.

July 1922 - What was conceded to be Bedford's biggest blaze, the Thompson & Blakemore Garage fire, caused damage of \$45,000 to cars, building and equipment.

September 1923 - City, with \$500 help from fire department, purchased second motor fire truck.

July 1931 - Firemen purchased another fire truck, built the body and equipped it from their own funds. This was the first pumper unit ever to see service with the local department.

September 1946 - Department added a resuscitator and inhalator, as well as a portable iron lung.

September 1951 - City of Bedford purchased new 500-gallon per minute pumper for the department.

May 1952 - Rural fire truck purchased by Bedford, Benton, Clayton, Ross and Jackson townships and turned over to the Bedford Department for use in either city or rural fire calls.

October 1952 - Emergency electric floodlighting equipment bought and added to the department's equipment.

Records of the fire department show the company has spent \$7,347 of its own money for fire apparatus during the past 30 years. Every cent of this expenditure was raised by the company without cost to the taxpayers.



6 Years of Business in
Bedford's First Century
Supplies for auto, farm & home

Western Auto Associate Store

George Lindstedt, Owner



BEDFORD'S ONE HUNDREDTH YEAR —

In my 43 years in business here I've seen a lot of changes in the town and I'm still here to offer a dependable line of merchandise.

Blake Radio & Appliance Store



CENTENNIAL GREETINGS TO

— Old Timers
— Inbetweeners
— New Comers

Dr. J. H. Wilmes

Optometrist



Warren McLeod

Myron T. Reynolds

It's been a long time since "Dobbin" ran off and wrecked the buggy — but today, when you have a wreck remember:—

Reynolds Body Shop

"You wreck 'em, We fix 'em"

PICTURE TAKEN ON COURT STREET 50 YEARS AGO, BEFORE PAVING



Andy Miller, father of Bill and Abe Miller, with city sprinkler

Bedford's Water Supply

Came From Wells

50 Years Ago

A half-century ago, Bedford's city water supply came from five hand dug wells located in the eastern part of town. Erected in 1901, a 100,000 gallon standpipe was supplied by water from these wells, two of which were located near the present site of the Farmers Co-op Elevator Company, and three near the present site of the county engineer's office. The pumping station was located near the present site of the elevator company's office. Also dug in that vicinity more than 50 years ago was a deep well "which was never used because its water was 'too salty'."

First Major Project

The tedious year-long construction, involving laying eight inch pipe lines in hand dug trenches from the water source, up Main street to the standpipe in southwest Bedford, completed the city's first major waterworks project.

Raw water was used for fire protection and a source supply for the old-time horse drawn street sprinklers and may have been used by a few patrons for drinking purposes. In those early days most Bedford residents got their drinking and cooking water from their own wells or from the city wells located on several intersections along Main and Court streets.

Modern Plant

In 1921 the city built a modern filtration plant. A cement dam was erected across the 102 River at the east edge of town. Water was then pumped from the reservoir, thus formed by the dam, into the city's filtering and treatment basins to be treated with chlorine to produce safe water for human consumption.

Present Water Source

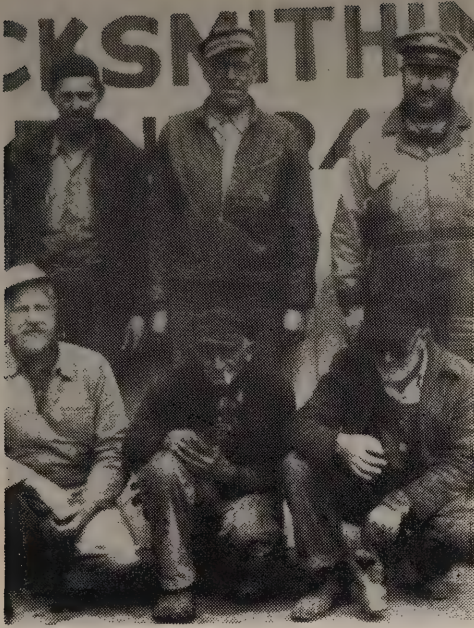
Bedford now gets its raw water from the Lake of Three Fires. The

city's daily consumption of 200,000 gallons of safe city water is made possible by Bedford's all modern filtration plant under the exacting supervision of Harley E. Nelson, superintendent of Bedford's Water Works. Mr. Nelson has served this community in this important job since his appointment in 1932.

Board of Trustees

Since 1941 the city water system has been managed by a three-man Board of Trustees. First members of this board were Ed Crum, Wayne Paige and Sam Weir. In 1948 the "old standpipe" was replaced by a new 200,000 gallon capacity water tower located in northwest Bedford.

The city also has a complete sewage system and disposal plant that have been built and extended in the years since a water system was installed.



"If We Can't Fix It,
We'll Buy It for Junk!"

Shehan Auto Parts

Blacksmithing
Auto Parts, Scrap Iron & Metal



Good Food
Since 1924

Hamburger Inn

Frances

Al



You Don't See Everything
of Bedford
on Main & Court

Purcell's Service

is still up your alley!



G. W. Rimel, M. D.

Serving Bedford and Community

Since August 1922

General Practice

Eyes Tested - Glasses Fitted

At the Turn of the 20th Century We Were Influenced by The Chautauqua Age

Chautauquas were beginning to play an important part in the entertainment and cultural life of the Bedford community 50 years ago. The colorful story of Bedford's Chautauqua was preserved by the late S. E. Thompson who for years served as chairman of the local Chautauqua Assembly committee of the Commercial Club. Mr. Thompson kept a "special folder" in which he filed the Chautauqua programs of those performances held in a huge tent on the Taylor County fair grounds in those bygone years.

The third annual assembly ran for 10 days, August 10-19, 1906. The official program for 1906 states: "As heretofore, the assembly tent will be spread upon the spacious grounds of the Taylor County Agricultural Association, where there are ample facilities to provide for the comfort of all patrons. These grounds afford ample stabling, water supply, toilet facilities and shelter. Locations suitable for tenting will be allotted upon application. Pedestrians will reach the grounds by a direct and convenient route free from the dust and danger of passing teams."

Program Varieties

The program boasted of 20 concerts, 22 lectures, 12 entertainments and 15 special events, all for a \$2.00 season ticket. Bishops,

authors, magicians, doctors were among those listed as speakers. Musical clubs from "far away" Boston, Jubilee singers from the deep South, and the best in choral singers were on the program.

A New Auditorium

The 1907 10-day session was presented at the fairgrounds in a "brand new" auditorium, with a seating capacity of 3500. Other highlights of Bedford's early chautauquas were: Miss Ferne Elizabeth Whiteman, sister of Paul Whiteman, who sang here in 1907, accompanied by the Royal Hungarian Orchestra. Motion pictures were featured on the program in 1907. Champ Clark of Missouri was another "headliner" to appear before a Bedford audience. Billy Sunday, world famous evangelist, gave two sermons on the closing day, Sunday, August 18, 1907.

"The tent life at the Bedford Chautauqua is especially delightful and gives a pre-eminence as a place to spend a summer outing. No other resort can be found to equal it," 1907 boosters declared in their official program.

Gypsy Smith, noted revivalist and lecturer of that period, was on the 1908 Chautauqua program prepared for the customers by the Bedford Chautauqua Assembly committee. Judge Ben B. Lindsey of Denver, noted as "The Kid Judge," was a speaker.

Carrie Nation Was Here

Carrie Nation, appeared on the 1909 program. "Probably no woman in the world is so feared and hated by the liquor element as Mrs. Nation," the program stated.

Rev. Joe Goodsell managed the annual chautauqua sessions in Bedford year after year. The Williams Jubilee Singers, colored folk from the South, were favorites in many return engagements.

"Midland" Influence

Midland Chautauquas were furnishing the program in the 1913 session, according to the program for that year. The independents were beginning to give way to the companies—Midland, Vawter and White. Programs began getting "pretty fancy", with foreign musicians, big-name lecturers, symphony orchestras, and professional drama groups.

By 1917 Midland had cut the program to seven days, and on their furnished printed programs, they didn't state where the session was being held. Probably by then they were bringing in their own tent, to be set up on the school grounds.

Last program in the packet kept through the years by Mr. Thompson was dated 1922. The Chautauqua age was rapidly drawing to a close, a victim of cars, good roads, movies, and radio.

PICTURE SHOWS NEW AUDITORIUM AT FAIR GROUNDS





Bob Zeller

Lute Taylor

Rollie Livingston

Delmar Smith

OLD IN YEARS OF SERVICE

—NEW IN FIRM NAME . . .

Founded 65 years ago by Ralph W. Thompson, this store—since 1888—has catered exclusively to men and boys in Taylor and adjacent counties.

Next owner, B. E. Paschal, operated the store for 34 years before he sold it to Rollie Livingston, one of the present owners.

The Fuller-Taylor store, another long-time factor in Bedford's growth, was purchased by Bob Zeller in October 1950.

Then in May, 1952 the Zeller and Livingston stores were consolidated in its present location.

Mr. Zeller now is actively managing the store while Mr. Livingston is a traveling salesman.

Zeller & Livingston Clothing Co.

Bob Zeller

Bedford, Iowa

Rollie Livingston

Taylor County Farm Bureau

It was during a school program at Bailey school in 1917 when Arthur Bishop advanced the idea of organizing a farmer's cooperative for help in marketing. Frank Wakeman, Doug Mohler and Walter Houck soon became interested along with Frank Dunning, president of the Citizens State Bank. A series of meetings were held, with mounting interest, after which Guy King, a young attorney, assisted in typing up a farm petition or resolution stating the object of the movement. Membership was \$5—the entire fee to go into a fund for operating capital.

The promotion end of the cooperative was well under way when Frank Wakeman read in the "Wallace Farmer" about a new law to the effect that when two hundred farmers and land owners of a county would cooperate to the extent of signing memberships and raising at least \$2,000.00, Iowa State College would cooperate through its Extension Service to educate rural people in better methods of agriculture and home economics. Information was secured through John Coverdale at Ames who acted as state-wide sponsor of the cooperative movement.

The Farm Bureau, as the new organization was called, had its first meeting on February 4, 1918 in the Court Room in Bedford. Officers were: President, Arthur Bishop; vice president, I. C. Welch; secretary, Robert Steel; treasurer, Frank Dunning. The first township directors were: Francis Beck, Benton Twp.; D. C. Mohler, Bedford; Frank Hamilton, Polk; H. A. Cochran, Grove; W. W. Heindel, Clayton; Joe Dowell, Gay; Floyd Cobb, Ross; E. H. Simpson, Mason; R. H. Coulthard, Holt; W. H. Chandler, Washington; Charles Longfellow, Jackson; Clint Andrews, Nodaway; G. A. Cobb, Jefferson; W. T. Brown, Marshall; H. U. Gillette, Dallas; E. P. Knox, Grant. Lew Sewell, vocational agriculture teacher in Bedford, was hired as the first county agent, having office space on the third floor of the Courthouse. John Radabaugh took his place while Sewell was in military service in World War I.

Early activities sponsored by the Farm Bureau were pooled wool



shipping, the securing of carloads of corn and wheat during the war, soil improvement, crop improvement, horticulture, and 4-H club work.

Boys 4-H

The first "corn" club in Taylor county was organized in 1916 by Miss Alice Nelson who was then county superintendent. A representative from the State Agricultural college at Ames contacted Miss Nelson and went with her to visit the rural schools, encouraging a "one-acre corn" plot. Twenty-five boys from Taylor county signed up in the corn club, eleven of whom completed the project. These eleven were awarded a trip to the short course at Ames, their expenses paid by the banks and merchants of Bedford. Boys who completed the project were Hobart Redenbaugh, Leonard Straight, Forrest Lyddon, Russell Wallace, Clifford Barrans, Clio Straight, Herbert Beach, Perry Oxley, Ray Bowers, Bruce Aiton and John Aiton.

Clubs were first known as corn clubs, pig clubs, canning clubs, etc. but soon were named 4-H clubs with a particular project carried by each member. The first boys' 4-H club committee included I. C. Welch, C. E. Longfellow and O. C. Hill.

There's little written record of 4-H until 1925, although club work was carried on since the 1916 corn clubs. Mrs. Clyde Russell was the first county girls 4-H chairman. Mrs. N. H. Reid the second, and Mrs. Lester Thompson, the third.

The report of 1925 listed Mrs. N. H. Reid of Siam as chairman with a girls' enrollment of 65. Earliest clubs seem to have been in Ross, Clayton, Benton, Polk and Mason. Committee members and leaders were Mrs. C. A. Thompson, Mrs. Dewey Combs, Mrs. Bruce O'Dell,

Miss Myrtle Pfander, Mrs. Wm. Barrans. Leaders were Mrs. Jennie Adams, Mrs. Mina Allen, Mrs. Tom Kingsley and Mrs. Harlen Hoover. The first record of Rally Day was in 1927, it being held on the Court House lawn with 125 attending.

Comparing the 4-H club of 1925 with today's shows definite progress. At that early date 15 members carried baby beef projects, 11 had purebred gilts, and 10 were in corn clubs. In canning club 43 girls were enrolled. In 1953, 235 girls are enrolled in 16 4-H clubs. One hundred eighty-six members are enrolled in boys 4-H carrying 246 projects.

Home Project

Women's home project work was begun in 1920. Mrs. J. C. Jefferies was one of the first leaders. There is little record of the Extension activities until 1925. Seven townships were organized at that time. In 1927 home project work was displayed at the county fair for the first time. The first Achievement Day was held in 1928 at the Methodist Church in Bedford with an attendance of 200.

Project leaders in 1925 were Mesdames Alva Clayton, Hattie Ernest, Grover Young, Glen Wood, Walter Welch, Geo. McNees, and L. A. Nordhousen.

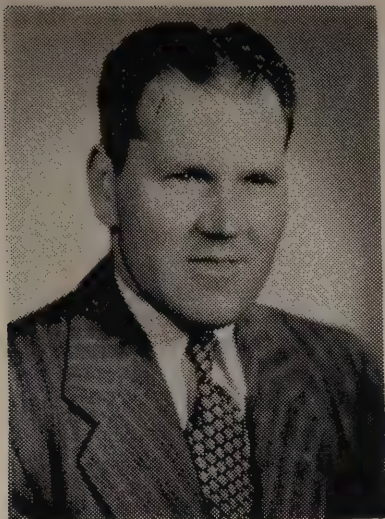
The year 1953 finds 15 active Farm Bureau women's groups, with all townships taking part in the study and action program. Eight hundred thirty-six families are Farm Bureau members.

County Agent - Now County Extension Director

Following Lew P. Sewell, 1918, and John Rodabaugh, 1918, as county agents were Floyd Kingman - 1920, Leslie Nordhousen - 1925, T. H. Isaac - 1927, Robert Davie - 1935, Gerald Johnson - 1945, and present John R. Hunter - 1947

Home Demonstration Agents - Now County Extension Home Economist

Vera Akers, 1938-1941
Norma Hollen, Ass't. HDA 1939;
HDA 1941-1942.
Betty Cruzen, April to Sept of 1944, food preservation assistant.
Ruth John, Ass't., 1945-1949.
Esther Held, June-Sept. 1949.
Evelyn Hunter, 1949.



JOHN F. HARDIN, M. D.

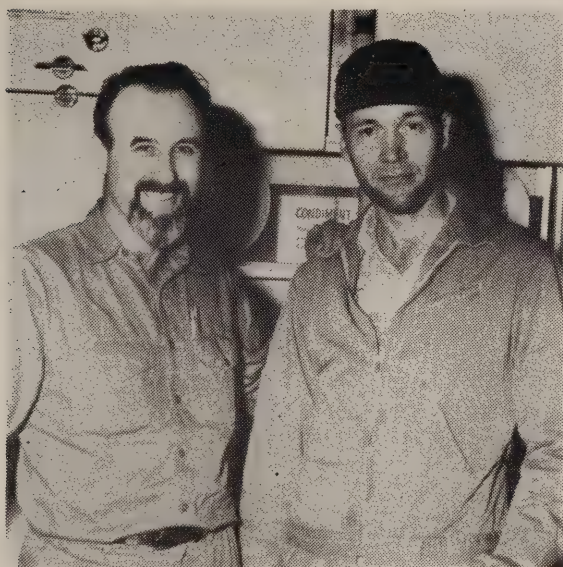
Bedford

Iowa



We'll be here to serve you
when the 1953 Centennial is
a memory—

Austa's Beauty Shoppe
Telephone 33



Robert Holmes - Gene Sickels
7 Years Service to the
Bedford Community
"Everything Electricial"

Everything Electrical
Sickels & Holmes
Appliance Store

Here's Where—



—WE GIVE YOU
COMPLETE LOCKER SERVICE

- Wholesale Meats & Seafoods
- Ice Cream Specialities
- For a Treat, try our special
Sugar-Cured Hams & Bacon

Bedford Locker Plant

H. W. Swinehart, Owner

Taylor County P.M.A.

Organized as "Corn-Hog Program" in 1933

The Taylor county farm program, known then as AAA and sometimes called the "Corn-Hog program", originated in 1933.

The AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Administration) was created as a farm program to attempt an adjustment between production, both crops and hogs in particular, to the consumer demand in order to provide a reasonable price for farmers' products.

Payments were made to farmers for reducing numbers of depleting crop acres and of hogs to be raised. Corn was then selling as low as 10 cents a bushel and hogs at two cents per pound.

Henry Wallace, then secretary of agriculture, launched his ever-normal granary plan which pro-

F. L. Cundy. Township committees were known as farm reporters, their election being inaugurated in 1934 and continuing as an annual operation ever since.

Earliest list of township committees, from available records, was in 1936 but in most instances they were the same as the original committees. Included were G. R. Newkirk, Virgil Vincent, H. G. Skinner and Ralph Livingston, Bedford-Benton township; W. L. Dorr, Joseph W. Greenway, W. R. Henderson and George W. Stephens, Clayton; Ora C. Cade, Cliff Allison, William Rice and Earl McAlpin, Dallas; W. A. Livingston, Thomas C. Larson, Harlan Harvey and George McNees, Gay; Alfred O. Nelson, Chancey C. Litteer, Harry L. Beggs and Clyde Owens,

Sim B. Beemer and F. L. Cundy, Marshall; Clifford Shields, Claude Cavender, Verne Timberlake and Jesse Brown, Mason; Scott Curtis, Henry Freuck, Henning Hanson and James L. Stamps, Nodaway; Bert Archibald, George Ferguson and Glen Douglas, Platte; Frank W. Shields, Glen Stewart, Claude R. Abbey and Cecil Woltruff, Polk; Guy Miller, Harold Lacy, Clifford Templeton and Floyd Swaim, Ross township, and C. A. Burwell, I. Walter Webb, Paul Parrish and John Kimpton, Washington.

Later the Supreme Court ruled the AAA law unconstitutional after which Congress passed the ACP (Agricultural Conservation Program) law in 1936. This was the beginning of conservation payments to encourage farmers to carry out soil building practices.

COUNTY COMMITTEE FOR 1953



Front row; left to right: Margaret Rowe, Claude Abbey, Kathleen McMillin, Pansylene Morris.

Back row: Harold K. Hunter, M. K. Sawyer, Tom H. Hayes

vided for the government to seal corn on the farm at a guaranteed price. First crib of corn in Iowa was sealed on a farm in Pocahontas county in December 1933 at 45 cents per bushel.

Taylor county's first elected committee was in 1934. Members were Walter Florea, Guy Miller, Clifford Shields, Earl E. Taylor and

Grant; Melvin Williams, George L. Dennis and George H. Beach, Grove; Earl E. Taylor, Eugene Sullivan and Clarence A. Naven, Holt; Claude E. Hamilton, George D. Hensley, Hubert H. Henry and Rex Rowe, Jackson township.

Walter G. Florea, John Sickels, Truman Straight and Cullen Wilson, Jefferson; George F. Rutledge,

In 1936 lime spreading totaled only 848 tons for Taylor county but in 1950 the total was 27,168 tons. No records are available on terraces constructed in 1936, but in 1940 there were 7,000 feet built and in 1950 the total was 368,738 feet. In 1940 contoured acres totaled 375 while in 1950 the total reached 23,955 acres; in 1940 there were 136 farms with livestock ponds, but 10 years later the total had reached 1178. Such has been the increase in all other farm conservation under ACP in Taylor county.

Of its 1952 corn crop produced more than 800 thousand bushels were placed under price support thus assuring producers from 25 per cent to 50 per cent more income than might have been realized were it not for PMA and price support. The PMA cooperates with all other agricultural agencies in the county and it is through cooperation that so much has been accomplished.

Present county committee includes Claude R. Abbey, Tom H. Hayes and M. K. Sawyer. Kathleen McMillin is secretary-treasurer, Marilyn Park, chief clerk and John Sawyer, program man. The office, said to be one of the most attractive in Iowa, is located at 319 Main street, Bedford.



. . . The Friendly Drug Store

A lot has happened in the drug business since the first Apothecary shop opened in Bedford. Where once the druggist also doubled as a physician, now your modern druggist acts as the dependable compounder of those all-important prescriptions.

Like the pioneer days when your forefathers found the early druggist to be his friend, so you, too, in modern times will find this store ready to aid you . . . the friendly drug store in your town.



NEED

SHAVING EQUIPMENT

After the Celebration?

You Can't Beat Bedford Rexall
For Shaving Creams, Blades and
Face Lotions . . . and, Brother,
YOU'LL NEED 'EM!

The Bedford Rexall for Drugs

I. O. O. F. Lodge

Received Charter Oct. 9, 1856

Bedford Lodge No. 91



PRESENT LODGE HOME BUILT IN 1883

Bedford Lodge, No. 91, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted May 6, 1856 and a charter was granted to the local organization from the Grand Lodge of Iowa, I. O. O. F., October 9, 1856.

The charter members were: Jesse Evans, Wm. H. Dauchy, Ezekiel Rose, David R. Evans, John A. Higgins, Oliver Jenks, Oliver Hyde.

The lot where the present lodge building now stands, was purchased from J. M. Thompson and Martha Thompson on June 19, 1883 for \$500. The building was erected in 1883 and the lodge was incorporated Feb. 1, 1933.

Early members of the Odd Fellows lodge included Cyrus Wolverton, S. S. Patch, J. W. Combs, R. A. Taylor, David Whiffin, Chas. Steele, John Graff, Isaac Kersey, A. L. Soles, William Cobb, John Wyckoff, W. F. Evans, Lafe Combs,

H. F. Dunlavy, Gid Wieser, F. M. Beall, Jacob Cole.

John Schwertley, G. N. Hadley, J. H. Daugherty, Ed Golding, F. E. Crossen, Ed E. Cass, A. L. Bibbins, E. C. Dowlin, Thos. Mahan, G. W. Young, C. A. Greenlee, E. P. Titus, C. T. Wickersham, H. U. Gillette, John J. Clark, Charles E. Patch, A. J. Thompson.

James Gilchrist, C. E. Fitch, Lemual Deremer, C. M. Paschal, J. L. Burnside, J. O. Anderson, C. B. Wysong, Elmer T. Brice.

The lodge has a roll of 136 members in 1953. The elective officers for 1953 are: Noble Grand, Howard R. Clark; Vice Grand, Gene Sickels; Recording Secretary, T. D. Hosman; Financial Secretary, James C. Forster; Treasurer, Delmar Smith. The trustees are James F. Ross, Glen W. Irwin, Don Jones. T. D. Hosman has served the lodge as recording secretary continuously since July 1, 1931.

A thriving Rebekah lodge of more than 200 members works in cooperation with the subordinate lodge. The Rebekah lodge was organized October 22, 1891.

The lodge has three 50 year-members, Elmer T. Brice, P. A. Blake and B. F. Shannon. Mr. Brice has been a continuous member of the Bedford order since October 29, 1897 and is still active in the work. Mr. Blake and Mr. Shannon came to the Bedford lodge from other towns.

The lodge maintains a club room and dining room in an adjoining building owned by the city of Bedford. The club room is open to members only for the play of snooker, pool and card games. The ground floor of the I. O. O. F. building is rented.

—Thos. D. Hosman



R. J. Salen

R. J. Salen, father of Albert Salen of Bedford came to Bedford in 1866. He was a stone mason and laid foundations for many of the present buildings on Main and Court streets. He also hauled lumber and freight from St. Joseph and Council Bluffs after the Civil War and before railroads, when streams had to be forded.



**BEAUTY SERVICE
AT ITS BEST—**

Only the best of materials plus efficient, trained operators assure you Beauty service at its very best!

Vogue Beauty Shop

Main Street

Bedford



FLOWERS THAT LAST

Hand Made from DeLuxe Fibre
Corsages and Special Arrangements
For all occasions - Made to order

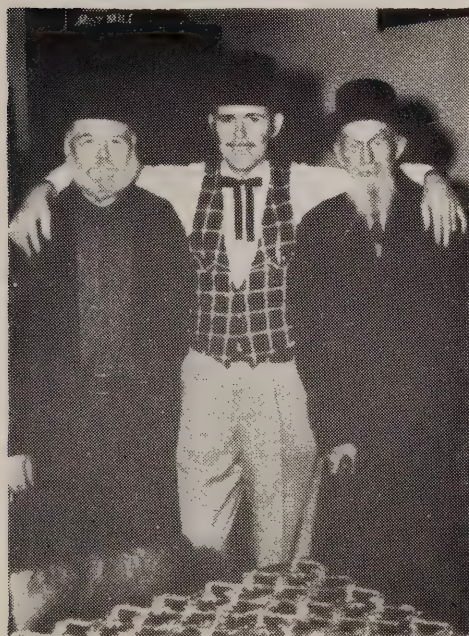
From

Hill Top House

Half mile east on Main Street and south
to Top of the Hill

Phone 27F03

Bethel S. Nash



J. A. Frazier, 102, (right)

and

George Beemer, 84 (left)

still in good health and still eating

at the

Bedford Cafe

Come up and eat

with the

MISSISSIPPI GAMBLER

Wayne and Louise Pruitt

Early Industries In Bedford

Each pioneer settlement of necessity had to be a self-sufficient unit within itself. To cope with their requirements, founders of Bedford started and, for many years, operated manufacturing plants to fill their needs. At one time Bedford looked to become an industrial center with four flouring mills, two brick plants, a rendering works, woolen mill, rock quarries and other manufactories.

In 1852 John Scott and Madison Guss operated a corn mill on the 102 River east of the present Bedford water plant. In 1853 Leonard Mohler purchased the mill and added new machinery to make flour. Later R. L. Whittington opened a grist mill on the site occupied now by Cobb's ice cream plant but consolidated it when he purchased the Havner Mills on the tracks north of the present Cudahy creamery. C. A. Hall was the miller and for years the firm processed and shipped wheat and corn products. Addison Parrish operated a mill on the lots south of the Highway Commission garage about where the Bill Watts residence stands. Then, too, W. W. Clark owned a mill at the present Mrs. Iva Sawyer residence site on Court street. It was dismantled and moved to Conway.

WOOLEN MILL

About 1870 "Captain" Park built a woolen mill in northeast Bedford. It was built of brick located 200 feet north from the site of the William Lambert house. Quality woollens were woven there for five years before it was sold to Hillis Bros. who later met financial reverses and closed the mill.

FIRST CREAMERY

Bedford's first creamery was on West Main street where it intersects with the street to Fairview cemetery. Owned by a Mr. Baldwin, it was later sold to Frank Dunning who moved the business to a loca-



THE HAYNER MILL - OWNED BY R. L. WHITTINGTON

tion one block south and one east of the present Cudahy plant. Later Dunning took as partners George Menzies and A. E. Lake to build the Bedford Creamery which still stands.

TWO BRICK PLANTS

At one time Bedford had two brick plants. One, thought to have been built by George W. Cramer, was northeast of Bedford on the 102 River east of the railroad. From the kiln operated by H. U. Greenlee came bricks for many Bedford buildings. The other kiln was located southeast of Bedford, adjacent to the original Dunning creamery on the river banks. This plant was said to have been built by Gorman & Wallace; later it was operated by George McKinley who closed it in 1893.

BEDFORD FOUNDRY

Bedford had a foundry on the site now occupied by Katz No. 2 Store, south of the Beebe Garage. Time has erased the name of its operator but early residents remember him as a German who, because cast welding was unknown, re-cast and poured new parts to replace broken ones.

The Pourch Rendering Works operated from 1880 to 1890 east of Bedford near present Highway 2, north of the river bridge, on what now is the Mrs. John Larison acreage. This plant flourished during the city's hog cholera epidemic, cooking the grease into saleable fats for soapmakers.

STONE QUARRIES

Building stone and limestone, quarried from what now is a lake on the west side of the Lake of Three Fires road on the Claude Thompson farm, was another thriving industry. Owned and operated by H. U. Greenlee, its stone went into the foundations of many Bedford business buildings and also the lime, after being burned, was used to make plaster. Shortly after the turn of the century, the quarry was closed, permitted to fill with water and was used as the town's ice supply. Each winter the ice crop was sawed and stored in a large ice house that stood south of the Thompson home. Historians record another quarry owned by W. M. P. Long as being operated here in the 90's, just east of town—where former lakes by railroad track were located.

CIGAR FACTORIES

Two cigar factories, one of sizeable proportions, operated here before 1900. Hindman Bros. (Guy, Walter, Bud and Chick) had their plant on the third floor of what now is Caskey's Jewelry, employing seven workers. The plant later moved to Shenandoah. Ollie E. Sperry also had a cigar factory here but his operations were not as extensive as were the Hindmans'.

OLD GRIST MILL SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY COBB'S ICE CREAM



100 Years Have Brought Changes . . .



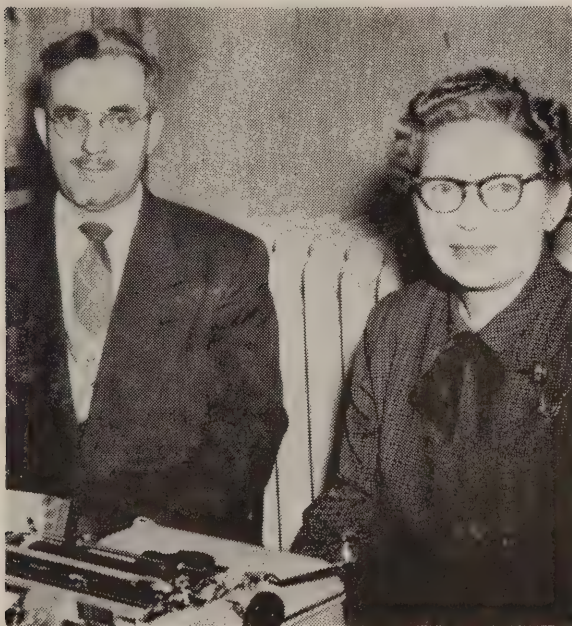
—For one thing the tedious tasks of farming by horse drawn implements—

—for another thing we are here in Bedford to offer a reliable line of MODERN farm implement and tractors and to serve you in a friendly, courteous manner.

Peterman Tractor Company

Ford Tractors

Dearborn Implements



Arthur Dinwiddie

Mrs. Ann Owen,
Office Assistant

Faithfully serving the Insurance needs of this community for 30 of Bedford's 100 years.

Dinwiddie Insurance



Authorized Representative

RCA - Victor

TELEVISION

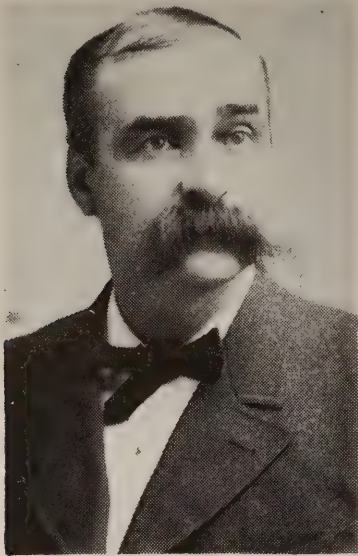
RADIOS

Watts Record Shop

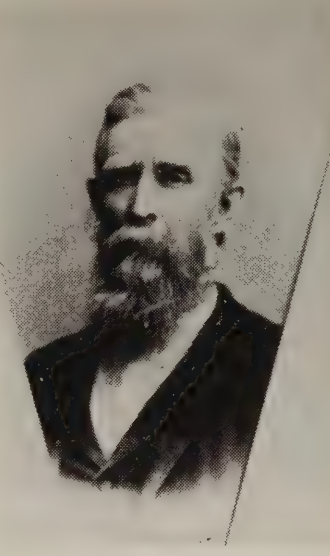
Bedford, Iowa

He Who Seeks Justice Must Believe In Justice

Early Lawyers of Bedford



James P. Flick



L. T. McCoun

The pioneer lawyer practiced in the small town and in the school houses, guiding his neighbors through the mazes of the law, adjusting their difficulties, arranging their affairs, settling their estates and keeping their secrets.

Any attempt to name the lawyers who practiced their professions during the early years of Bedford's history will be sketchy at best, due to lack of records and complete information. Nor will any attempt be made to mention those who were admitted or practiced law after 1880.

L. T. McCOUN who had an office in the Benner Wilson building on Main Street was admitted to the bar about 1855, practicing here for many years as a noted criminal lawyer until his death in the 20th Century. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and served in the State Legislature in 1876.

MOHLER & ELLIOTT: Henry Mohler who came to Bedford in 1853 was admitted to the bar in 1879. Mr. Elliott practiced for a number of years being admitted to the bar about 1873.

L. N. LEWIS had an office on the west side of Green street, north of Main street. He was admitted to

the bar about 1864 and came to Taylor county to practice about 1867.

W. E. CRUM was a graduate of the law school of the State University of Iowa in the class of 1869, coming to Bedford to practice on May 10, 1870. He practiced in 1879 in partnership with J. P. Flick. Their office was over the Bedford Bank. He died in the year 1916.

G. L. FINN AND C. H. FINN had a law office over the Citizens Bank on the south side of Main street. G. L. Finn started his practice in Bedford in 1868 and was later elected to the State Senate. He died in California in the 1920's a wealthy man. C. H. Finn came here to practice in 1870.

LYMAN EVANS had an office on the south side of Main Street. He started practicing law in Bedford about 1874.

WHIFFIN & BROWN had a law office on the southwest corner of Jefferson and Green streets, forming a partnership January 1, 1878. J. W. Whiffin had been in the county as a lawyer since 1869. Mr. Brown came to Bedford about 1875.

ATKINSON & SON formed a partnership to practice law in Bedford in August, 1875, first under the firm name of Finn, Atkinson & Son. It became Finn & Atkinson and later took the name of Atkinson & Son.

JAMES P. FLICK was a veteran of the Civil War and County Recorder in 1868. He was admitted to the bar in 1870. He practiced in Bedford until his death in 1929. He served as State Representative, District Attorney, and as a member of Congress.

CHARLIE THOMAS came to Bedford in 1878 and studied law in the office of Whiffin & Brown and was admitted to the bar in 1880.

G. B. HADDOCK was admitted to the bar about 1874 and in 1878 formed a partnership known as Haddock & Grimes. They had practiced law separately about a year and a half prior to forming the partnership.

J. E. HUSTON was a lawyer who came to Bedford in 1878 and practiced here for a number of years.

V. G. HOLLIDAY was one of the older attorneys in Bedford in the year 1879, having practiced here a number of years at that time.



W. E. Crum

LEVI DUNLAVY was a lawyer who practiced several years prior to 1879. He came to Bedford in 1875 and was a partner of J. P. Flick.

FRANK WISDOM was a school teacher who read law and was admitted to the bar about 1878. He practiced law in Bedford until his death in 1940.

CUDAHY'S and the Changing Times



THE CREAMERY AS IT LOOKED IN 1913



THE PLANT AS VIEWED IN 1953

The Cudahy Packing Co. is pleased to have had a part in Bedford's progress. From a humble beginning as the Bedford Creamery, employing approximately 20 and dealing exclusively in dairy products, the plant was purchased by Cudahy in 1934 and now employs 175 at peak times.

Operations have been expanded to include dairy products, fresh and frozen eggs, poultry, turkeys, condensed buttermilk, two hatcheries and a poultry processing plant.



Cudahy Packing Co., Bedford, Iowa

County Fair Started October 7, 1857 as "Agricultural Society"

Taylor County Fair

Active steps for a Taylor County fair were first taken 96 years ago when a group of citizens met for the purpose of organizing an "agricultural society" in Bedford, October 7, 1857. This Agricultural Society elected Daniel Hoover, president and D. Dale, secretary. An appointed committee drafted a constitution and by laws. On October 31, 1857 stock was exhibited and a meeting was held to complete the organization.

The records indicate that no further action was taken until 1859 when another fair gave as prizes, subscriptions to the North-West Farmer for the best pair of draft horses; cash prizes ranging from 50 cents to two dollars were given for winners in 12 other classes.

In May of 1860 another organizational meeting was held in preparation for the fair which was held in the following September. County historian, Lyman Evans reported, "... a vast concourse of people gathered and 112 prizes were given". Fairs were held in Taylor County in 1864 and 1865 at about which time an official meeting was held to select a delegate to meet with the State Agricultural Society in Des Moines.

By this time the organization owned the grounds north of Bedford. The acquiring of these "grounds" prompted the appointing of a committee to prepare a track for use of the fair held October 31, 1866 when harness racing was featured for the first time in Taylor County. At this fair of 1866, 70 exhibits were judged with premiums totaling an "unbelievable" \$43.75.

In February of 1867 the se grounds were ordered to be sold or traded for a more suitable site. Heated discussions were held by members of the Lexington community in regard to the location of the county seat as well as the new location of the fairgrounds, but there is no record of any further action until 1874 when a general meeting of Taylor county citizens was held at the court house to reorganize the agricultural society.

The present fairgrounds were fenced and a track prepared in 1876. This track has ever since

been known as the best in southwest Iowa. It has always borne a fine reputation in all racing circles of the U.S.A. A fair was held in 1876, also a new floral hall was built that year. The proceeds from this fair were \$1377.74.

An amphitheatre was built in 1878. The first time women helped make out the premium list was in 1881. No other records are to be found until 1887. Old settlers tell of other fairs being held but nothing authentic is known.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Taylor County Agricultural Society March, 2, 1887 the name was changed to the Taylor County Fair Association, at which time new articles of incorporation, and regulations were adopted.

The first president was Alex John and the first secretary was H. P. Long.

The fair was held under these articles of incorporation until 1942 when it was incorporated with few changes in the articles of incorporation. This fair has since been held at its present location and has been noted for good harness horse racing. As far as know no regular Taylor county fair has been held without racing. Some of the best harness horses have raced on this track. One of the old timers was Harry Prince owned by G. N. Hadley.

In the 1920's the 4-H clubs began showing at the fair and their part of the exhibits has grown to such an extent that in 1952 the fair paid out over \$2200 in 4-H premiums.

Throughout the years it has consistently had the best entertainment it has been possible to obtain, and it has been very successful in pleasing its patrons. Some of the highlights have been Ruth Law, aviatrix, in 1916 who grossed over \$5000; Jimmy Lynch, who has grossed \$4500; Chitwood \$4000, and many others. During its history it has given prizes for baseball tournaments and for Modern Woodman drill teams. The first girls' basketball games and first boys' track meet were held at the fairgrounds.

Records show that W. O. Denton won the first mile race for boys ever run in Taylor county at the fairgrounds. In 1940, Chas. Wy-song, then living in Bedford, told of being taken by his father to the first fair in the county.

The present grounds at one time consisted of 50 acres, but in 1876 20 acres were sold on the south side for \$40 per acre.

The first appropriation from the county, which was \$500, was secured in 1875.

The first grandstand was erected in 1879. National Trotting Association rules were adopted in 1880 and continued until in the 1920's when the U. S. Trotting rules were adopted.

The fair has had its ups and downs, but has managed to improve its grounds, hold good fairs and be free of all debt. Taylor county fair remains a member of the State Fair Managers Association, ranking in the first 20 fairs.

—Guy Miller



Standard Oil Station



HERE TO SERVE YOU—

We offer prompt, courteous
STATION and TANK WAGON Service
We sell a complete line of
Standard Oil Products

—
GAS - OIL - TIRES - BATTERIES

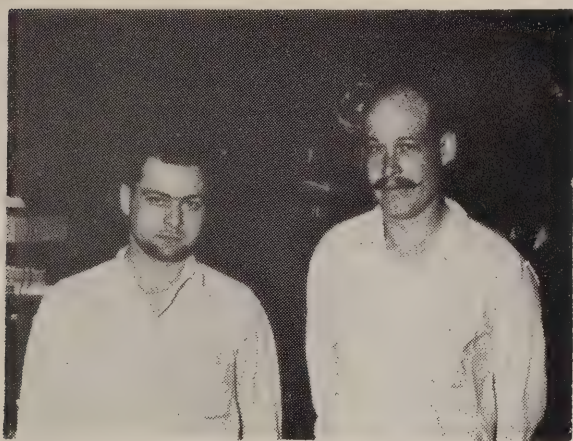
—
STATION - Eddie Allen
TANK WAGON - Don Lowry



Here are Ugo and Lloyd

Ready to serve you for the Centennial
year and the following years
at the

Bedford Candy Kitchen

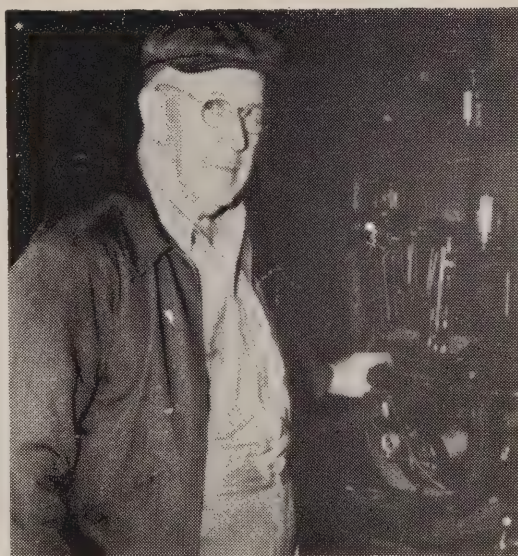


HERB MARSHALL - JACK ORTH

The pioneers traveled by FOOT
WE have served the
“FOOT NEEDS” of this
community for 3 years

—
Complete Shoe Repair
New Shoes for the entire family

Orth Shoe Store



Bedford has been here 100 years. Since 1905
I have specialized in all types of precision
machine work, crankshaft grinding and repair
work. - Frank Beebe.

Beebe's Garage

Do You Remember?

Who is there besides the writer or Bill Mohler who remembers the good old days when the Mohler boys' grandfather built a grist mill on the east bank of the 102 and a dam to run the mill by water power?

When we had a three-room school house located where the school now is, built of limestone rock taken from the quarries in the northeast part of Bedford?

When we had a woolen mill located just north of where Jake Martin's junk yard (now Shehans) now is, and where they bought wool, spun yarn and manufactured cloth?

When all the roads from the southeast converged at the ford where the St. Joe bridge now is?

When a wooden bridge was built across the river and circuses traveled over the land and an elephant broke the St. Joe bridge down?

When Paddy Miles had a hotel at the east end of Main street and a feed yard across the street where Wells Sale barn now is?

When Faith brothers had the leading general store called the Gravel Root Store on the corner of what now is Main and Court streets?

When the only houses north of where the opera house is, were Jim Flick's, Joel Walker's and Windsors'? When the only houses west between C. N. Nelson's and West 102 were Jesse Dale's, Abner Daugherty's and Jim Mason's?

When all the brick used to build the Bedford House, now Garland Hotel, Lewis' store, Thompsons', Galey's and the three buildings on Court Street - Caskey's, Daisy's and the restaurant were mixed, molded and burned in the brick yards southeast of town?

When all the merchandise was hauled by team from St. Joe or when it was all heavy timber southeast of town for a mile and a half?

When Uncle Billy Golding, Ren Fuller's grandpa, and his son Bill bought six acres of land, cut the trees, hewed the logs and built a two-roomed log house?

When we had three doctors, Dr. Bent, Dr. Swearingen and Dr. Gol-

liday? Drs. Bent and Swearingen rode horse back to visit patients. Dr. Golliday generally walked.

When we always celebrated Decoration Day and the 4th of July?

When the colored people of whom we had many, celebrated Emancipation Day?

When the Civil War veterans held annual reunions?

When the public square was just west of where the Court House now stands and the celebration of the 4th of July was held there?

When 30 acres of land were bought and the race track was built from the southeast to the northwest. When a board fence 8 or 10 feet high was built all around the grounds, stalls built all along the east side for livestock and shed barns built in the southeast corner of the grounds and some on the north side for the race horses?

When we had a cigar factory employing 15 or 20 men with a strong cigar-makers' union or when we had three good general stores, Jake Cole, Turner, Dale and Parker, and J. M. Thompson?

When we had three bakeries?

When we had two good harness shops, where all harness was made by hand, or when we had a sawmill located near Ugo Mariotti's property?

When we had a foundry standing where Katz' Second Store now is and castings for stoves and farm implements were made or when Obi Houck had a factory in Bedford to make chairs, tables, and bedsteads?

When townspeople used to discuss the pre-Civil War days of Bedford, and in so doing, related how Dennis Hamblin drove hogs to market at Ottumwa?

When Platteville was a thriving town with three general stores, drug store and blacksmith shop?

When no one had much but every one was happy?

Yes what has become of the good old days?

THEY HUNG OLAF, THE INDIAN . . .

Olaf, an Indian man, was committed to jail in Bedford, Iowa, according to records in the Taylor county clerk's office, on June 29, 1889, after a hearing in justice's court, bound over to the next term of court with bail set at \$10,000.

He was charged with rape.

The next day L. T. McColm, coroner, gave notice that an inquest would be held at the sheriff's office that day to find out how Olaf, an Indian man died (there hanging in the court yard).

(You can see the stump of the tree out an east window of the clerk's office.)

H. F. Dunlavy testified: "Live in Bedford, a physician and surgeon. I do not know the dead—I think I know the cause of his death. I think the cause was hanging in the court yard from a tree by a rope. I was awakened at 11:30 by a thumping sound—went to my door—saw a large crowd at the jail. They bumped away until something gave way. Some one cried "Bring him out"—after partial dispersion of the crowd I went over—say 20 minutes—and saw this person hanging by the neck."

Many more men testified that they saw a dead Indian hanging by his neck in the court yard that morning, but no one admitted seeing who did the lynching.

The inquest jurors, J. W. Combs, W. C. McGinnis and J. A. Evans, reported "said Olaf, an Indian man, came to his death by being hanged by the neck until dead by means of this jury unknown."

George Nelson, great uncle of Mrs. Hope Blakemore, drove a four horse passenger stage before the Civil War. His route took him from Old Memory to Hawleyville, to Maloy and Mount Ayr.

Charles Nelson, grandfather of C. N. Nelson of Bedford, came to Taylor County in 1856. There have been Nelsons of his family in the Bedford school district for the past 97 years.

—C. N. Nelson

WE SALUTE CENTURY-OLD BEDFORD



OUR BUSINESS — making the best ice cream

OUR OUTPUT — over 35,000 gallons of ice cream in a 12 month period.

OUR TERRITORY - Bedford, Clarinda, Maryville and Chariton.

OUR GROWTH — from two stores in 1937 to four stores in 1953

OUR PLANT — the finest in Southern Iowa; three Diesel generators and the trade's most modern equipment.

OUR WORKMEN — Pete, Uncle Ernie, Gabby and Shirley.

OUR NEW STORE — at the plant in Bedford.

OUR SPECIALITY — making all kinds of ice cream specialties to add a distinctive touch to your special entertaining.



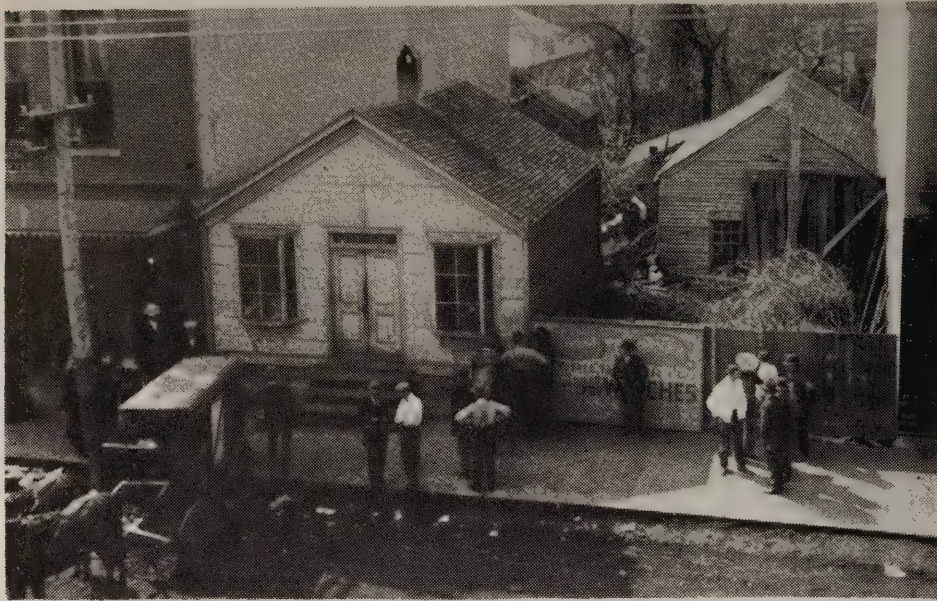
Cobb's Ice Cream - Bedford, Iowa

Harry A. Johnson, Owner and Manager

The Golliday Story

**"They Carried the Money to the Bank
In Buckets — More Than \$42,000—"**

**Picture Below Taken of the Golliday Store
The Morning the Body Was Found**



Dr. Alfred M. Golliday's death, which occurred in his sleeping room in the rear of his drug store on Main street, Bedford, was written about in a lengthy story appearing in the Thursday, April 23, 1908 issue of the Bedford Free Press. Bits of the story follow:

(The one-story drug store located on Main street was moved to the H. K. Hall lots, across the street west from the Kernan oil station a number of years ago, and the Zeller-Livingston clothing store building now occupies its site.)

"The deceased was one of the most peculiar, eccentric and well-known characters in Bedford. He was rigidly honest and high minded. He never obtained a penny that was not rightfully his. He was one of the best educated men in Bedford and was an inveterate reader with a mind that retained all he read. He was retiring and seclusive in disposition but was always ready to visit and talk with anyone who might call on him.

"Living alone and within himself as he has done for so many years, he made no one his confi-

dant. While he owned considerable real estate he never did any business with the banks. He spent his entire time in his little store and never left unless to take a stroll. He lived entirely within himself, asked and granted nothing."

Dr. Golliday graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, with high honors in 1859, and came to Bedford to practice. He bought the drug store in 1866, living there until his death 42 years later. He was past 77 years of age when he died.

His nephew, the late H. K. Hall of Bedford, was made administrator of the Golliday estate. He began going over the belongings of the doctor and before the search ended, more than \$42,000 in currency, gold and silver was brought to light. Currency was found in every conceivable place about the drug store. When the door of an old safe in the back room was broken open with a sledge because its door had rusted shut, a cascade of silver dollars and half dollars flowed from within. Another large amount of silver was found in an old barrel in the building occupied by the doctor.

Silver and gold were carried across the street to the Bedford National bank in buckets. The paper money was so old that bills stuck together and they had to be carefully soaked and slowly picked apart. Before crediting the currency, some \$37,500 of it to the account of the administrator, the local bank sent it to a St. Joseph bank. The count tallied but the St. Joseph bank would not credit it until the old currency had been credited by a Chicago bank. The Chicago bank turned the bills over to the sub-treasury and the sub-treasury sent it to the treasury department in Washington, D.C.

The bills were good—so back through the banks came credit until it reached the Bedford National here.

An invoice showed:

Gold & Silver Certificates	2898.00
Legal tender	28074.00
Gold coin	8755.00
Silver dollars	2262.00
Fractional silver	451.30
Nicks and cents	8.24
TOTAL	\$42,448.54

Almost 100 years ago, in our present location, was one of the finest LIVERY STABLES in this quarter of Hawkeyeland.

TODAY we have here a modern garage with "old fashioned" dependability.



Front row, left to right: Perry Williams, Bill Baillie, Ben Hayworth
Back row: Max Masker, F. E. Hess, T. E. Brown, Frank R. Bowen

PONTIAC & BUICK

SALES & SERVICE

Central Motors - Bedford, Iowa

Frank R. Bowen

CENTENNIAL GREETINGS from:—



Miss Joreen McColm Dr. C. W. Steward Mrs. Mariam Stock
Receptionist Dentist Dental Hygienist

Dr. C. W. Steward

1928

Bedford, Iowa

1953



PROPANE GAS

"Nature's Best Cooking Fuel"

Bedford Gas Service

Ernest Reck

Sales - Service



Bedford Public Library

—Community Asset Since 1917



MODERN, ATTRACTIVE LIBRARY SERVES COMMUNITY NEED

The idea for a Public Library in Bedford was started several years before Jan. 25, 1917, date of the present library building dedication.

In the early 1900's much inspiration for improving opportunities for the children and adults of a community came from the many fine speakers brought to Bedford by the chautauquas. One of these was a Miss Georgene Faulkner, a gifted story teller for children. Miss Faulkner never missed an opportunity to urge mothers to work for a library. "Why don't you apply for a Carnegie Library before it is too late", she would tell women here. Mrs. R. W. Thompson recalls.

INTEREST RAN HIGH

No one here knows more about the early plans and campaigning for the establishment and maintenance of the Bedford Public Library than Mrs. Thompson. She served on the library board for many years, much of the time as its president.

Mrs. Bruce Flick, president of the Bedford Civic League about 1915 called a public meeting at the opera house to discuss "Why Bedford should have a library," and before that meeting was adjourned committees were named to arrange for a special election, publicity, and for getting out the women as well as the men to go to the polls on election day. Women suffrage had not yet arrived but women were permitted to vote on the establishment of a library. The election carried.

FIRST OFFICERS

Officers of the first library board were Bruce Flick, president; Eva McCloud, secretary - treasurer; Charles V. Dinges, J. M. Little and Mrs. R. W. Thompson, book committee; Mrs. C. M. Paschal, Frank Allen and John Miller, building and grounds.

FUND RAISING PROJECTS

For years after the library was started, getting money for buying books was a major problem. Donations, guest teas, dollar subscriptions, bake windows, minstrel shows, rummage sales and kindred projects were used for raising library book funds. Sponsored picture shows were a main source of funds for library books.

SERVED AS "SCHOOL ROOM"

In 1924 Bedford schools were so crowded it became necessary to rent outside space. The library basement was used as a school

room, the annual rental fee of \$325 being used for buying books.

GENEROUS BEQUESTS

Generous bequests from Harvey Parrish, Alex John, Sam Park and others made it possible to greatly increase the number of books on the library shelves.

OVER 10,000 BOOKS

According to latest reports there are 10,187 books in the Bedford library today. Due to cooperation of the city council and to the fact that an adequate library tax may now be levied, the Bedford library building is in an excellent state of repair and library finances are in good condition.

The library and its facilities are used extensively by town and country people. Everyone is proud of "our library".



Mrs. R. W. Thompson

E. I. Wilson Hatchery

Before
Whiskers



I'm a native of Taylor County. In 1925 I bought two "Old Trusties", each with a 240 egg capacity. In 1927 I purchased a hard coal heated 1200 egg incubator. In 1928 I moved to Gravity and put in an electric 12,000 egg capacity incubator.

Now in my present location in Bedford we have 140,000 capacity ultra modern incubators and 36,000 brooding capacity. We have our own 30 kilowatt power plant to assure constant, efficient operation. My son-in-law, Wm. H. Hensch, assistant manager, has been with the firm for 10 years.

— E. I. Wilson



During
Whiskers
for
The Centennial

BEDFORD GUN CLUB



Above photo made at old Mohler location east of Bedford, April 19, 1916:

Front row, left to right: Chas. Mason, Ernie Hamilton, Dan Moore, Geo. Kemery, Leslie Conder, F. L. Wetmore, three unidentified, Edgar Mitchell. Second row, seated: R. E. Fradley, Jud Grimm, Mr. Brown, A. D. Smith, Roy Churchill, Olin Moody, R. W. Thompson, Francis O'Dougherty, Cal Bradley, Ed Slauson, two unidentified. Standing: Harry McCann, G. E. Sperry, Sid Morris, M. D. Lewis, one unidentified, Ed Pinney, Hal Reynolds, Harry Mathew, Sid Crevelling (seated), Lloyd Grimm, Johnny John, Fred Gilbert, Dot Blake, A. C. Brice, Jr., D. C. Mohler, Clyde Smith, Nate Hickenlooper, John Swap, one unknown, Fred Whitney, unknown, Sid Webb.

The Bedford Gun Club, the oldest club of its kind in Southern Iowa and Northern Missouri, was organized in 1915 by 20 local shot-gun enthusiasts.

This active club, which is now located on the airport south of Bedford, has grown to a membership of 130 nimrod fans. Originally

the club was located on the D. C. Mohler farm across the river from the city water works. Club members practiced their favorite sport there for 35 years before it was moved to its present location.

Some excellent shots have been developed within the Bedford Gun Club and their ability is respected

today wherever shoots are held.

Many of the finest shots of the United States have shot over the Bedford trap; well-known men who participated in local shoots were: Fred Bilbert, Johnny Johns and Fred Whitney, who cashiered all Grand American Tournaments until his death.

Excellent 9-Hole Golf Course and Club House for Members

A Centennial history of Bedford, Iowa, would not be complete without mention of the town's improvement in the latter portion of the century. Headlining the community's added assets of the last 29 years is the Bedford Country Club.

The excellent club house and nine-hole golf course, a mile north of Bedford on Highway 148, is a worthy addition to the community. The club had its beginning in 1934 when 80 members paid a hundred dollars each for a share in the club. Many of the original stockholders have moved from the community or are now inactive but the younger people have assumed the responsibility to improve the course and redecorate the club house.

Until the conclusion of World War II official offices of the club were held by stockholders only. During the emergency years of the second World War grass was not mowed and the course grew up in weeds.

After the war the younger men who returned to the community and the season members assumed the difficult task of getting the course in shape again. By hard work and good management this group was able, with the help of the ladies of the club, to succeed so that today it stands at the top of Southwestern Iowa golf clubs.

The Bedford Country Club is today debt free. Recent improvements include the construction of several dams to stop the ditching. During the summer season five of the greens are watered daily by pumping water from a sizeable lake north of the club house.

—Frank L. Wetmore, sr.





Mrs. Gerald
Johnson

Alfred
Northover

Ernie
Campbell

Wendell
Prugh

1868



1953

BEDFORD WAS FOUNDED IN 1853

15 YEARS LATER (1868)

BENJAMIN PRUGH, FOUNDER,

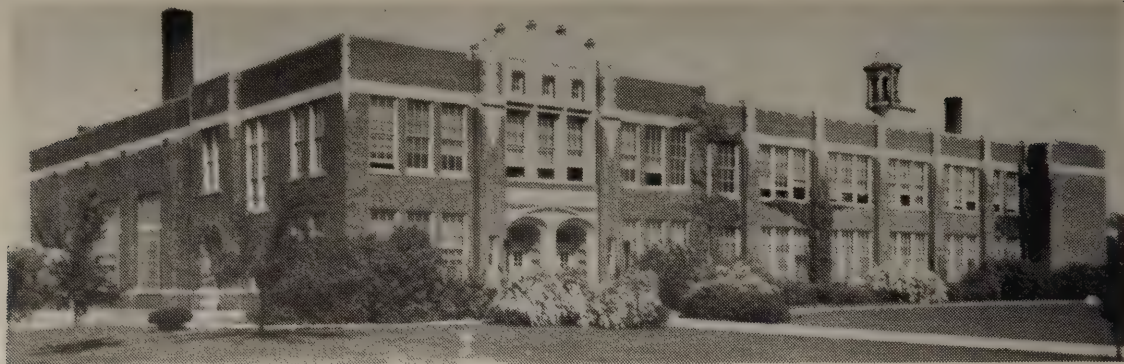
STARTED HIS HARDWARE BUSINESS

We Are Happy to Have Had a Part In This Community's Progress

BEDFORD

Prugh's
HARDWARE — FURNITURE

IOWA



Bedford Public Schools

OLD STONE SCHOOL—



—1864-1904

OLD BRICK SCHOOL—



—1877-1927

PRESENT GRADE BUILDING—



—BUILT IN 1904

From the Days of a Log Cabin School to the Present . . .

The first school house in Taylor township, according to historian Lyman Evans. On April 1, 1857 Benton township District No. 1 paid \$550 to acquire title to a little frame building located on Lot 1, Block 12, Bedford. The building had been erected by James Engle for his residence but it became Bedford's first school house. This school house stood near the present location of the Ilo Wilson residence at 402 Central Avenue. Darwin E. Jones taught the first school in 1856-1857. Jones was succeeded as public instructor by Judge Hall, who later became one of Bedford's leading lawyers. Hall was a son-in-law of the Rev. Mr. Golliday. Succeeding Hall was John F. Salisbury who was a man of "most excellent education". Jake Lewis is reported to have taught a singing class in 1856 or 1857 and Major A. B. Van Sickle was known as a singing master with a fine voice.

A four room stone school house built in 1864 served the community until 1904. The building erected in 1877 at a contract price of \$15,300 was referred to as "an elegant building and one of the finest edifices in Southwestern Iowa". Bonds voted for the purpose were sold at par for a term of ten years bearing eight percent interest. J. W. Combs was the building contractor and the school officials were Thos. McCracken, president; J. P. Flick, treasurer; W. F. Evans, W. A. Webb, L. Evans, J. M. Thompson and W. F. Walker. The present school site was established at that time by closing North street between Pennsylvania and Illinois streets.

In 1880 there were nine school rooms, nine teachers and a nine-month school year. Male teachers were paid \$65 per month, females \$40 according to Superintendent Jeffery's report for that year. There were 625 children of school age of which 566 were enrolled and the average daily attendance was 348. The brick school building and the stone school building were in use and valued at \$21,000. Teachers compensation totaled \$3,857 for the year and other expenses were \$1,294.81.

In the course of time the building erected in 1877 became overcrowded and in 1902 the school board was discussing a new high school building. Not until 1904, however, was the contract let for what was referred to as a "rust-colored brick building" at a total contract price of \$21,750. School officials having the responsibility for the erection of this building were Henry P. Long, president of the board; R. S. Swearingen, secretary; F. E. Payton, treasurer; Alex John, J. C. Beauchamp, F. P. Bell, Eldon Golding and F. E. Howard, superintendent of schools. After almost fifty years this building is still very much in use. It houses most of the grades, junior high and the vocational agriculture farm shop.

In the early twenties the need for more adequate and more modern school facilities was again being stressed by many Bedford citizens. A bond issue of \$160,000

(Continued on next page)



MISS ALICE HALE, a native daughter of Bedford, taught school for 41 consecutive years in the Bedford Public schools. She started her service in the local system by teaching the fourth grade, moving by successive grades to become the kindergarten instructor, in which capacity she served until her retirement in 1948. Two generations of Bedford children, conservatively estimated to be over fifteen hundred of them, have spent one of their important formative years under the guidance of Miss Alice Hale. She is a graduate of Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls. She supplemented her formal education with two summers of graduate work at Chicago University and the University of Colorado, Boulder.



MISS CECILE F. LONG, another native daughter of Bedford, taught high school subjects in the Bedford high school for a total of 28 years, retiring in 1948. She also taught in North Dakota, Montana and California. She had two generations of Bedford students in her classes, best remembered by former students are her classes of Latin. Giving Latin parties with the old Roman flavor was one of Miss Long's contributions to the social life of her students. Miss Long is a graduate of the State University of Iowa, 1905, with graduate work from Iowa University and the Universities of Colorado and California. In 1915 she was graduated from the Methodist School for Religious and Social Training at Chicago



MISS ALICE NELSON, a third native daughter of Bedford, taught in Taylor county schools for nearly 50 years. Her teaching started in country schools then in the grades and high school at Lenox for six years. For two and a half years she was superintendent at Conway, six years New Market superintendent, and nine years as Taylor County Superintendent of Schools. Miss Nelson served as Normal Training supervisor and principal of the Bedford Junior High for 21 years. Since her retirement in 1949, Miss Nelson has done substitute teaching in the local grades. She is a graduate of Iowa State Teachers College, with graduate work in colleges in San Diego, California, Maryville, Mo. and in Colorado.

... HAVE CAST AN EVER-WIDENING INFLUENCE ON MANY

was authorized in 1926 to construct the present modern high school building. School officials were Thos. E. Anderson, board president; J. F. Longfellow, treasurer; J. S. Pieringer, secretary; Leslie C. Klopp, Elmer T. Brice, W. W. Trousdale and S. R. Weir. V. A. Helfenstein was school superintendent.

Because it was decided that the 1877 school building had served its days of usefulness, it was torn down upon completion of the new high school building in 1927. Last year the last of the bonds voted in 1926 were retired.

The Bedford schools have kept pace with the times. The high school has been accredited by the North Central Association of Secondary Schools since 1915. Courses in Industrial Arts and Home Economics were offered as early as 1913. A Commercial Course was added in 1918 and Vocational Agriculture in 1926. The latter course was dropped during World War II because of the teacher shortage but the department was reopened and

broadened in 1949 to include on-the-job-training for World War II veterans under supervision of the Veterans Administration. Approximately 150 veteran farmers have received training here under this program.

To assist in solving the problem of transportation for the increasing number of rural students the local school district purchased two buses in 1950 and two more have since been added. At present 135 students are transported by these buses.

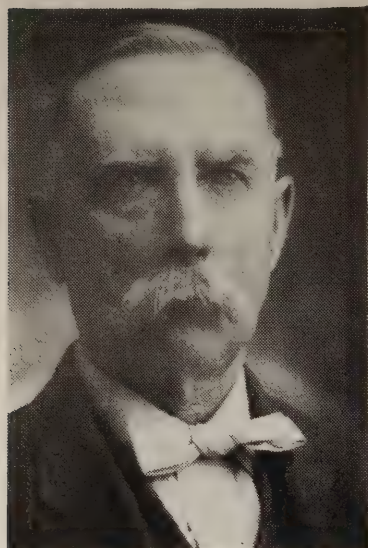
The total enrollment in the grade and high schools in September, 1952 was 510. The average daily attendance for the 1951-1952 school year was 473.4. There are 26 on the faculty, including three for the veterans' training courses. Roscoe F. Van Dyke is superintendent, James S. Taylor is high school principal and Roy Reith is grade principal.

Little has been said in this report about the many school teachers who have served the school district since Darwin E. Jones

taught the first school in that little frame building almost a hundred years ago. Needless to say their work in moulding the lives of the youth has been far more important than the buildings and equipment. However, it seems that an outstanding job done by a class room teacher seldom if ever is mentioned in the school secretary's minutes or becomes a permanent part of other official school reports. An outstanding job in the class room may be cherished by appreciative students throughout life but never make the pages of a history of the school. Few Bedford alumni can recall having ever attended a class reunion in which one or more former teachers have not been singled out for praise. No history of the Bedford Public Schools would be complete without mention of some former teachers who have served the local school over a long period of time, such public servants as Eva McCloud, Alice Nelson, Cecile Long and Alice Hale. No doubt many others should be added to the list.

—Arthur Dinwiddie

Harness Maker, County Official, Surveyor and Gunsmith All Had a Part in the Early Life of Bedford



S. S. PATCH

Editor of Bedford
Centennial Booklet
Bedford, Iowa:

Dear Sir:

Grandfather, known as S. S. Patch, was called Smith. He brought grandmother over the prairie by ox team from near Red Oak and settled at Bedford, about 90 years ago, or more. He operated a harness shop. There were only two or three stores in Bedford at that time.

When Uncle Charley Patch was two or three years old, he put on grandfather's hat and followed him to Odd Fellows lodge one night. He was not noticed until they got to the hall, so Grandfather had to take him home. Uncle Charley cried and said, "I want to ride the goat". That has been 86 or 87 years ago, as Uncle Charley is now 89 years old.

Later Grandfather operated a grocery store, then a feed store with Bashor. He was a stock-buyer for years, then worked at the stock yards as weigh-master for years. Grandfather was born in Ohio in 1835 and died in 1924.

Yours truly,
Mrs. Ethel Bower
Murray, Iowa

SETTLERS

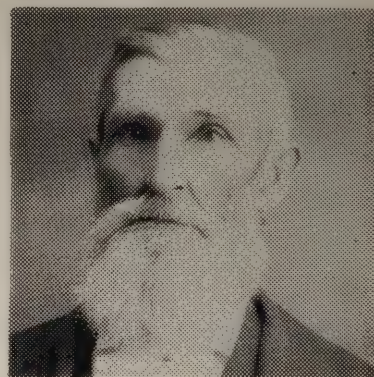
Early settlers included Daniel Hoover, who came to Jackson township in 1834; Matthew Hindman in 1843; John C. Meehan. Isaac Dowis, Horville Bailie, all were early settlers. The Kemerys, Straights, Hays, Russells, Rowes and Parkers all had a part in the history "100 years ago".

ALEX JOHN

On the hot afternoon of July 4, 1855, a pioneer family in an ox-drawn wagon, completed a small saga of the great Westward Movement when Alexander John, age 14, with his mother and sisters reached their destination—Bedford, Iowa. It had been a long hard trip from Indiana to the "wilds of Iowa". The Johns got one big quick impression of Bedford townspeople for as their wagon rolled to a stop near the spot where the Bedford Water Works is now located, nearly all the townspeople were gathered for a July fourth picnic.

By the time Alexander John had reached early manhood he had made a commendable reputation as a general farmer. Taylor and surrounding county farmers drove countless miles to attend his stock sales because he was widely known as a breeder of registered livestock. His Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs and his sizeable market shipments were well-known in this quarter of the state.

Mr. John's energies, however, were not all directed toward personal gain, because he was a public spirited man who served his county and the town of Bedford in many ways. Included in the numerous jobs he performed were county supervisor and county treasurer. John took time to work in the interest of the Baptist Church. As a Baptist church board member he was a zealous worker in the building of the Baptist Church as well as the town library. He was active in Red Cross drives and served on numerous bond drives during the Civil War as well as World War I. Many present day Bedford res-



Josiah Litteer

idents remember this colorful personality.

JOSIAH LITTEER

Born in 1823 in New Jersey, a grandson of William Williams, signer of the Declaration of Independence, came to Taylor county, Iowa, in 1855. He first resided near Conway and later moved to Bedford. He was surveyor for the railroads built in Taylor county and served as surveyor in most of the towns of Taylor county. He was an early member of the county Board of Supervisors.

E. C. DOWLIN

E. C. Dowlin was born near Jefferson, Greene county, Penn. in 1860 and came with the family of six children to Bedford in 1868. He lived all his life here. In February 1890 he was married to Mattie I. John. To them were born three daughters, Helen E., Hilda G. and Kathryn.

Helen E. married Harry Beauchamp of Bedford but lived most of her married life in Sioux City where she died in 1949. Hilda G. married E. P. Simpson and still lives in Bedford. Kathryn married Dwight Kidder and lives in Chula Vista, California.

"TINK", THE GUNSMITH

In about 1888 a gunsmith, "Tink" Woods, ran a shop on Court street, south of the City Hall site. He specialized in gun repairs and was said to have turned out a few handmade guns in his shop.

THANKS!

July 3 Marks Our

FIFTH

ANNIVERSARY

IN

BEDFORD

We Appreciate Your Patronage;

We hope it will continue

BEDFORD CLEANERS

"When We Clean It It's Clean"



Glenn Sharp - Jim Jeter - Delia Toops



Ruth and Cecil Wilson

We opened our bakery in Bedford
January 8, 1951

We are young in town
but old in experience

K-C Pastries



Ray and Don

MODERN IMPLEMENTS

FOR MODERN FARMERS . . .

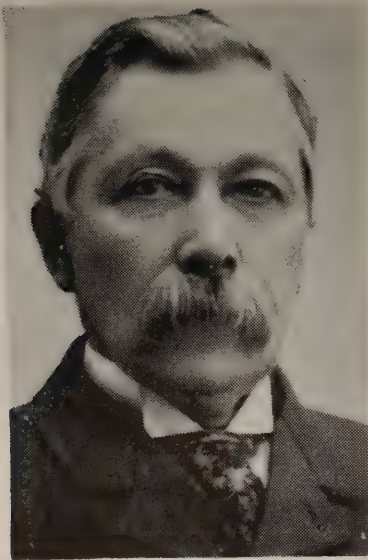
Authorized

C A S E

Dealer

Glass Implement Co.

Bedford, Iowa



CHARLES C. HESS

Just a hundred years ago, in 1853, Benjamin Lee Johnson (grandfather of Francis Hess) pulled his ox team to a halt at Bedford, Iowa, to unload his family after completing the slow wagon trip from Crawford, Pennsylvania. In the little caravan of four covered wagons were three other families. This group of pioneer men built the first four log houses here.

The Johnson log house of "adequate dimensions" for a family of six—three girls and a boy—had an outside stairway to gain entrance to the bedrooms on the second floor. The Johnson home was located a little north of where, years later, the Hook & Willis Hardware store stood and which is now known as the Thompson store corner. On the same lot Johnson operated a thriving blacksmith shop.

Home and church activities kept the mother, Mrs. Julia Maris Johnson busy, but her responsibilities were increased when her husband died in 1866.

Sarah, daughter of Benjamin and Julia Johnson, married John Hantenkrat who served in the Civil War with "Jake" Cole and Frank Walker, well-known business men of Bedford a half century ago.

Another of the Johnson daughters married C. C. Hess in 1861. Mrs. Hess, (mother of Francis Hess) was a public spirited woman who gave freely of her time and energies to the Baptist church as well as to the Rebekah lodge.

C. C. Hess born in Germany in 1828, came to the U. S. when he was 12. A year later, in 1841, Hess drove a team to Chicago for fur buyers. He soon learned the fur buying

Two Early Settlers of Bedford - - CHARLES C. HESS

and

WM. M. P. LONG

business, secured a peddling wagon and moved from Illinois to Iowa.

For a time he was part owner of the Hess, Work & Ball clothing store of Chicago, later selling out to Mr. Work before settling in Bedford.

C. C. Hess had a store in an old gravel stone building near the spot where Dr. K. B. Paschal's office now stands. Clerks in the Hess store were Eck (A. P.) Evans, (father of Mrs. Edna Paschal) and Mike Mann (father of Mrs. Cora Moody and Mrs. Tressie Thomas).

Finally in 1872 Mr. Hess traded his store to Billy Webb for a farm, the old home place of the Hess family, now owned by Francis Hess of Bedford.

WM. M. P. LONG

William M. P. Long, a native of Virginia, was an early settler who built the first Taylor county courthouse and the first Bedford stone schoolhouse. William M. P. Long—a stonemason by trade—was a progressive, honest, public spirited early settler. From his native Virginia he went to Ohio to marry Hannah Pope, a native of that state.

W. M. P. Long's interests were varied. The first years of his married life were spent in Greencastle, Indiana, where Mr. Long engaged in merchandising for several years. When he moved to Iowa in 1854 he opened a new farm near Chariton—in Lucas county.

W. M. P. Long came to Taylor county in 1857. At this time he established a store and again carried on general merchandising for a number of years. He built a home which later became the northeast section of the old Rainbow Hotel (present site of the Hy-Vee store). He was county sheriff at an early date and also one of the early mayors of Bedford.

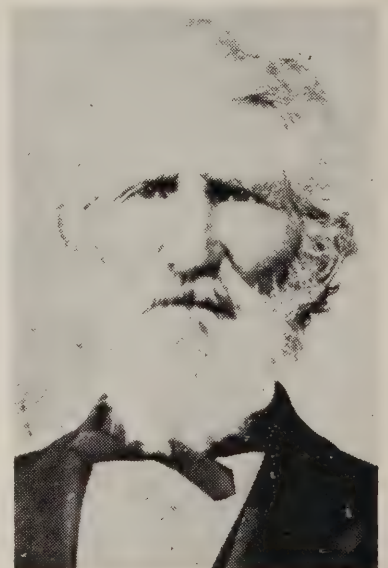
He sold this store to operate a brick kiln and a stone quarry in the east part of town. In 1864 he built the old courthouse and also built the first Bedford schoolhouse—both of stone.

Mr. and Mrs. Long were both charter members of the Methodist Church. Mother Long and her oldest daughter made candles to furnish light for the church. During those years when buildings were

heated by stoves, four of the Long boys—Lafe, William, Hi and Henry carried in a large share of the wood supply to heat the church.

W. M. P. Long and Hannah Pope Long were the parents of four boys and four girls—five of whom spent their entire lives in Taylor county. Eliza Jane, wife of J. M. Houck, taught in the first frame schoolhouse while her husband served in the Civil War. Angeline and her husband, J. T. Johnson, farmed near Bedford, as did Mary C. and her husband, James S. Hall. Henry P. Long held county offices, served on the fair board and school board and was cashier of the Citizen's Bank. Hiram M. was deputy sheriff for 20 years and county sheriff for four years; he was a stock raiser, built and owned a cement block factory here and was a promoter of many civic improvements. Marcus de Lafayette Long operated a grocery store here until 1889 when he moved to Oklahoma.

Living in Bedford at this time are these descendants of W. M. P. Long and Hannah Pope Long; one granddaughter, Cecile F. Long; five great-grandchildren, Charles Hale, Alice Hale, Henry Gilchrist, Mrs. James S. Taylor and Guy Miller; and two great-great-grandchildren: Charles Hale jr., and William Hale.



1915

1953



From the Bicycle Business in 1915 to the addition of Automobile Batteries and parts in 1917, Paul Morris and the Bedford Battery Company, have served Bedford and Taylor County for the past 38 years. The Bedford Battery Co. building has been my headquarters for the last 35 years.

Here to serve your needs: Bicycle Parts, Automobile Parts, Tires, Batteries as well as Electrical Service.

Bedford Battery Company

PAUL MORRIS, Owner

Insurance of all kinds for the last 20 years.

For the Centennial Year and the Future - -



—Modern Service with

Old Time Reliability

Jack's Radio & Television

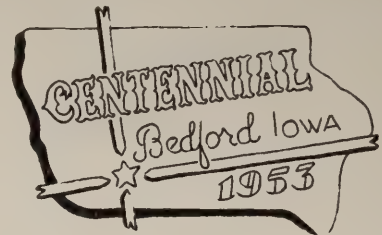
BEDFORD'S FIRST LIGHT PLANT IN 1897



Bedford's first light plant was built in 1897 by C. Wilber Wiley and was located in the building now occupied by the Farmers Coop. Elevator Co. In 1902 the plant was bought and enlarged by M. L. Burt who employed Dot Blake as his

lineman and installer. The plant was sold to Smith & Hastie in 1910 and was operated for five years before being sold to the Lee Electric Co., Clarinda, who brought the highline to Bedford and closed the local plant.

The Early Postal System And Bedford's Postmasters From 1855 to 1953



The Bedford post office in Taylor county was originally established as Grove on June 30, 1855 with Adam Vinnedge as the first postmaster. On June 24, 1856, the name was changed to Bedford.

City Delivery service was established on September 1, 1927. Domestic Money Order system established on January 2, 1893, and International Money Orders on July 1, 1903. Rural Delivery service was established on December 2, 1901 with Routes 1 through 5 being established on that date and Route 6 on April 1, 1903.

The first record of compensation to the postmaster at Bedford shows that Samuel Dale received \$98.92 for the fiscal year 1856-57, and the net proceeds for this office during the year were \$64.23.

The six rural routes were consolidated to three on May 16, 1938.

Bedford's present post office building was a gift from the local Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post, accepted by the Post Office department by a special act of Congress in 1920.

Postmasters and dates of appointment follows:

Adam Vinnedge June 30, 1855
Samuel Dale, April 4, 1856.
Joseph E. Richey, April 29, 1857.

C. C. Leaming, May 25, 1858.
Joseph L. Cathcart, May 13, 1859.
Jesse Evans, April 1, 1861.
Daniel W. Atkinson, April 2, 1864.
Ezekiel G. Heeds, July 15, 1869.
Jesse B. Evans, November 9, 1870.
Vinton G. Holliday, September 7, 1874.

Martin V. King, March 16, 1876.
Lafayette Combs, November 14, 1877.

William F. Evans, December 20, 1881.

John D. Smith, April 21, 1886.
Henry C. Webb, October 29, 1889.
Joseph A. Minor, June 19, 1893.
John J. Clark, October 29, 1897.
James P. Flick, April 20, 1909.
Charles N. Nelson, June 26, 1913.
Walter H. Lake, January 30, 1922.
Ren H. Fuller (Acting), August 25, 1932.

Carrol Nelson (Acting) October 1, 1933.

J. Murl Hamilton (Acting) January 16, 1934.

J. Murl Hamilton (Regular), May 24, 1934.

Mrs. Eunice Hamilton (Acting), November 1, 1934.

Mrs. Eunice Hamilton (Regular), June 25, 1935.

Glen W. Irwin (Acting), April 13, 1943.

Glen W. Irwin (Regular) May 18, 1945.

F. Wayne Harbour (Acting), May 1, 1953.

JUST A TRADING POST

In the early days Bedford was only a trading post. The rivers and creeks were teeming with beaver, mink, muskrats. Panning for gold was quite common. The country was full of roving adventurers and criminals in hiding.

EARLY ORDINANCES

Among the early ordinances passed by the town council:

(1) No one under 16 years of age can use tobacco within city limits.

(2) No business shall be open on Sunday.

(3) No one shall tie his team to a shade tree within the city limits.

FIRST MARRIAGE

The first marriage to occur in Taylor county was in March 1851 when Nancy Jane Ross married William Allumbough.

WAGES?

Records show the average wage paid school teachers in Bedford in 1907 was \$55 per month. The superintendent was paid \$33 per week.



The Plumbing Was Outdoors in Grandpa's Day

"RUNNING WATER" ran from the hand agitated pump; a bath, taken in the old-short dimension galvanized tub was anything but pleasant; sometimes a nearby creek was the family bathtub.

WE SPECIALIZE IN BRINGING TO
YOUR HOME THE CONVENIENCES
LITTLE DREAMED OF WHEN OUR
TOWN HAD ITS BEGINNING



Left to right: Roy Volkmar, Anna Mae Volkmar, Glen Burroughs, Shirley Bristow, Albert Spencer. Seated: Mike Volkmar.

Half the fun of celebrating a Centennial is to appreciate the conveniences we have today compared with the hardships of our early pioneers. We present our services as representative, typically modern, and are proud to participate in the celebration of 100 years of Bedford's progress.

FOR PLUMBING, HEATING, PAINT, GLASS & SHEET METAL

Bedford Building Supply

PHONE 75

DAY or NIGHT

BEDFORD, IOWA

Women Did Their Full Share In Early Development of Bedford



Eva McCloud

Miss Eva McCloud, a teacher in the Bedford schools for many years and long-time resident of Bedford until her death June 25, 1949, was the principal founder and worker in the Civic League of Bedford. She was the guiding light in seeing to it that the purposes of the organization were carried out . . .

"To create the proper public spirit when practicable, for all things worth-while.

"To strengthen philanthropic and reformatory efforts and to stimulate intellectual development."

Promotional efforts of the Civic League are credited with getting a Public Library for Bedford; organizing service groups during World War I; selling war bonds; selling Christmas Seals and working on many other community betterment projects.

The Civic League furnished the Women's rest room in the court house and maintained it for many years; it placed drinking fountains on downtown streets; it planted oak trees along the walk from town to the depot; it put backs to the seats in the courtyard park; it placed lights in the school grounds.

From the ranks of the League's members were recruited workers for the franchise for women vo-



Miller Sisters

ters. The Civic League for years sponsored the winter lecture courses and the summer chautauquas.

It backed various efforts for bettering conditions in the community such as cleaning and beautifying parkways, providing places for garbage disposal, and each spring conducted a city-wide cleanup campaign.

The League circulated petitions calling for a new schoolhouse bond issue vote, that brought about an election and a voting of bonds used in the building of Bedford's present fire school building.

Many of the improvements and conveniences in Bibbins Park were financed by the Civic League, such as tables, shade trees, and part of the pavement to the park.

MILLER SISTERS

Miss Frances Miller, 95, and her sister, Miss Jessie Miller, 89, reside in Bedford. Born on the Miller homestead west of here a few miles, their memories of Bedford extend back to the days when it was but a small trading post with few inhabitants.

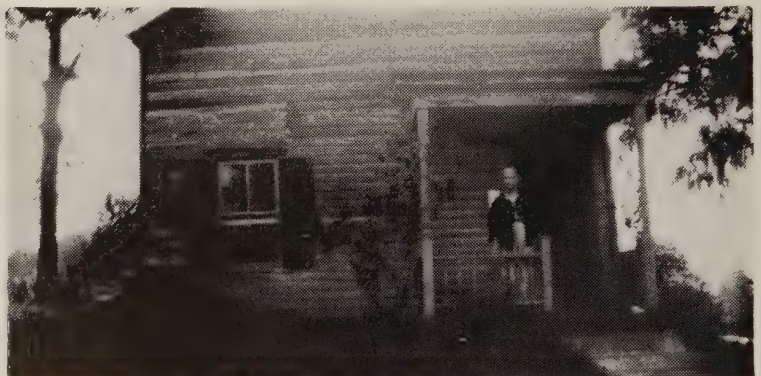
Indians roamed the prairies in those early days and many are the tales about the savages, the high prairie grass, and prairie grass fires, lack of roads, and the distances between neighbors the Miller sisters recall as told them by their mother, and experienced by them as girls.

Miss Jessie Miller taught school for 47 years in Taylor county, most of that period of time in the Bedford schools. Miss Frances stopped teaching after 15 years of service, to care for the household.

MRS. W. E. SWAP

Mrs. Swap came with her father to Bedford from Wisconsin in 1858. They crossed the Mississippi from Greene county in a horse ferry boat. It took two weeks to make this trip. Her father traded two teams and wagons for the hotel which stood where the Garland now is. It was a log structure. Mrs. Swap lived 73 years in one house here in Bedford.

This old house, built almost 100 years ago of native walnut lumber and finishing lumber hauled overland from St. Joseph, Mo., still stands at 709 West street. Mrs. Swap moved into it as a bride.



Mrs. W. E. Swap



GEORGE AND DAISY SHURR, LELA SNYDER, WILMA THOMAS

STYLES REFLECT THE TIMES

You'll Find Only the Latest When You Shop

at

Daisy's Shoppe - Bedford, Iowa



Front row, left to right: Jim Young, Marge Cook, Doris Young, Beverly Safley.
Second row: Dutch Young, Joyce Sparks, Sue Young, Jane Reynolds

FROM AN HUMBLE BEGINNING IN 1910 . . .

Motion Pictures

ARE YOUR BEST ENTERTAINMENT

It is the constant aim of the Rialto management to select the best pictures produced and bring them to Bedford as soon as possible.

E. W. Kerr, Owner

BEDFORD

RIALTO THEATRE

IOWA

One of the Oldest Firms in Bedford

Farmers Mutual Insurance Association

One of the oldest firms in continuous business in Bedford is the Farmers Mutual Insurance Association. The Association was organized by farmers of Nodaway and Holt townships. With the encouragement of the Extension Department of Iowa State College, a county group was organized March 1, 1899, under the name Farmers Mutual Fire and Lightning Insurance Association of Taylor county. Nodaway and Holt townships merged to complete the whole county. Later the territory was extended to include the contiguous counties of Page, Adams and Ringgold. The first president was W. D. Blakemore. The first secretary was Frank N. Boyd who now lives in West Des Moines. The first annual report showed \$54,398 insurance in force and a balance of cash on hand of \$3.34.

The building which houses the home office was purchased in 1920 and equipped with fixtures from the Conway, Iowa, bank which had closed its doors. In 1952, the Gothic style front of the building was removed and a new, attractive, modern style front was constructed. The association offers its facilities to its membership and friends as well as many farm organizations for meetings.

Many changes in the mode of farm living have come since this first venture in farm insurance. Many early day hazards have been eliminated and new ones added. To meet this change in rural insurance, the association was reorganized October 24, 1950. A standard policy was adopted in order that extended coverage and other advantages could be offered. This was done without adding costs to the members. New homes and other buildings were being constructed at costs above the capacity of the association. In 1949 an arrangement was made with the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company so that an unlimited coverage could be given. More recently a new policy combining both the hazards of fire and wind storm has been secured for its members.

The last annual report shows \$7,310,441 in insurance in force.

Cash on hand and in reserve give the Taylor county group as secure a position as any in the state.

Members who have served the association as officers have been: President, W. D. Blakemore, Geo. Dugan, Alex John, Wm. Hook, Howard Hensley, Frank Dunning, E. P. Patch, Eli Wilt, J. H. Wintermute and HK Russell. Serving as secretaries have been: F. N. Boyd, W. A. Harvey, Frank Greeley, H. K. Hamblin, M. A. Sawyer, R. A. Taylor, jr., and Leonard L. Moore.

At the time of his death, J. H. Wintermute held the record as oldest continuous member. His brother Harley takes that place now. All members of the official board are farm owners and, true to the MUTUAL IDEA, seek to secure for membership the best insurance at the lowest possible cost. It is worthy of record that the assistant secretary, Miss Nettie Redenbaugh, has been with the association for twenty-five years.

TAYLOR COUNTY FAIR

The Taylor County Fair was the biggest in the state from 1912 to 1930. Spencer's well known fairs were larger but they were district fairs. During these 18 years the Taylor County Fair featured 100 speed horses a season.

IN FORMER YEARS

Cy Wolverton of Taylor county had a blacksmith shop where the Masonic Temple now stands in Bedford. Ab Wentworth of Conway had a wagon shop in the back room of the Wolverton shop.

FOR 30 YEARS

For the past 30 years, Robert Marley has served continuously as a member of the board of the Farmers Cooperative elevator here. He is the oldest from point of service on the board which now includes Roy Newkirk, Paul Wolverton, David Kingsley, Brice Melvin, Carl Stephens, Guy Miller and Marley.

John Lowe's Clock With Working Parts Made of Wood Is Still In Use

In the spring of 1844, John Lowe and his family moved from Louisville, Ky., to a farm in northern Missouri. Among the few possessions taken with them was their grandfather's clock. The clock, with all working parts made of wood, was made by S. Hoadley of Plymouth, Mass., for a concern which later became known as the "Seth Thomas Clock Company."

The Lowe family made the trip by boat to Weston, Missouri, then overland to a farm near the present site of Siam, Iowa, at that time, Andrew county, Missouri. Because new surveys changed the boundary lines this farm was, for a time, uniquely located in two different states and three different counties.

This clock told the time of day for the men who surveyed the state line between Iowa and Missouri, and set the iron markers

that permanently fixed that line. The men stayed with the John Lowe family while working in that vicinity.

John Lowe later moved to a farm west of Bedford and became the first judge of Taylor county. The tall clock had to be sawed off at the bottom and some ornaments at the top lowered in order to get it into the log cabins which were the homes of the family in the following years.

About 1870 the Lowe clock was given to Mrs. Robt. A. Taylor, sr., a granddaughter of John Lowe and the first white female child born in Taylor county.

With the exception of a few years when it needed repair, it has run almost continuously. It is now in the home of Mrs. Lottie Gooding, a great, great, granddaughter of the original owner.

—Mrs. Lottie Gooding



The **HAWKEYE LUMBER CO.**

Many years have gone into the almost forgotten past since the Hawkeye Lumber Company joined the business interests of Bedford.

In 1905 this company purchased the lumber yard formerly operated by the Rand Lumber Company of Burlington. It was, at that time, not a very attractive yard, being located on the site now occupied by Emmert Motor Sales. The sheds were on three sides of the lot facing inward. The fact that the Rand Lumber Company only leased the lots may account for the lack of better buildings.

W. E. Crum and F. E. Walker, citizens of Bedford, at one time owned that lumber yard and sold it to the Rand Lumber Company. The lots had been owned since 1866 by Dr. A. M. Golliday, an eccentric and wealthy citizen.

Some years after the Hawkeye Lumber Company purchased the plant, they were asked to vacate it, and having no lease it was necessary to find a new location. However, it was not until 1909 that the present location was purchased and buildings erected thereon. A number of additions have since been made.

The Hawkeye Lumber Company has appreciated the patronage it has received from the citizens of Bedford and Taylor county, and it is most happy to join in this Centennial celebration.

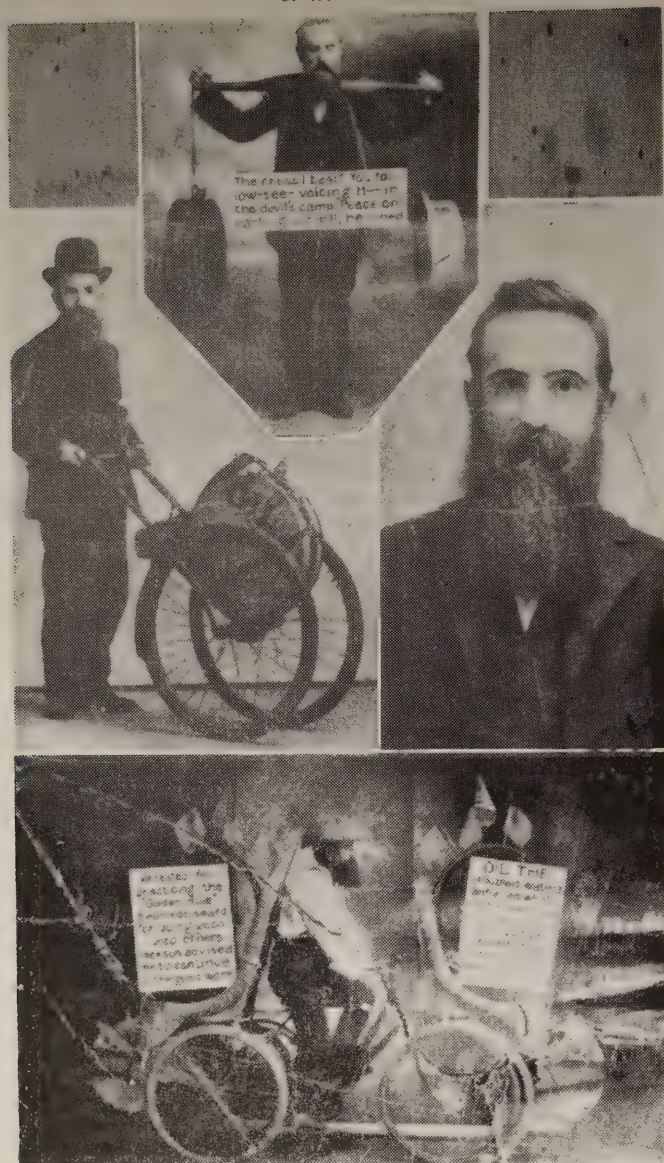
The Company has kept pace with the times in extending its stocks to include paint and hardware items, as well as other lines of merchandise. Fifty years ago, a lumber yard was very much what the name indicated; its stocks confined to lumber and kindred items. It now furnishes practically all the material needed in construction.

Present manager is Claude A. Hooper.



CLAUDE A. HOOPER

C. W. TERPENING



It Takes All Kinds:—

Bedford's First Oil Dealer -
Weather Prophet -
Sanitation Engineer

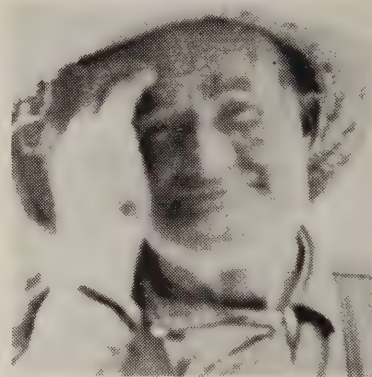
Every community has had its "characters", who are remembered with respect that grows as time mellow the picture.

Those residing in Bedford about the turn of the century will remember the men pictured here. Their lives, their ways of making a living, their personalities were so out of the ordinary that if you knew them you still remember them.

Clinton Wiloughby Terpening, the little man who built the marble-covered house in south Bedford, to ship to the Chicago World's Fair, was Bedford's first oil dealer. The picture shows him with the three types of transportation he used. The text on the pictures has to do with his troubles with the city officials who objected to his use of the sidewalks for his tricycle as he delivered kerosene.



"PROF" TIMOTHY WILCOX



BILLY LAMBERT

Professor Wilcox, a resident of lowlands near the fair grounds, had to be rescued with a boat at every high water time. He cleaned wells for a living. He was best known for his ability to forecast the weather.

Billy Lambert, often called Bedford's first "sanitation engineer," served us well and faithfully in the days before plumbing.

Bedford Sales Co.

Established
in 1921

•
**SALES
EVERY
SATURDAY**
•

Past Patronage
Appreciated
Here To Serve You for
Years to Come
Wells Bros., Owners



We wish to add our note of appreciation for the efforts of those sturdy founders of Bedford who helped make possible our 1953 Centennial.

PALACE RECREATION, Bedford, Iowa
W. A. (Bill) CORTNER

Taylor County Soil Conservation District

Organized 13 Years Ago



As Bedford celebrates its Centennial Anniversary, Taylor county will be celebrating its 13th anniversary as a Soil Conservation District.

In 1940 a group of far-sighted Taylor countians saw the need for an organized program to combat soil erosion. Because a large part of Taylor county is in a relative steep slope class and a shallow surface soil, erosion had advanced rapidly.

To get a soil conservation district organized in Taylor county, it was necessary to obtain a petition form from the State Soil Conservation Committee. At least 20% of the landowners within the proposed District had to sign this petition before it was considered by the State Committee. This petition received favorable action by the State Committee and a hearing between the Committee and local people was held to determine whether a district was feasible in Taylor county. After the hearing, the State Committee ordered a referendum. This referendum gave landowners a chance to vote for or against a soils district. The referendum passed and an election was held to elect three commissioners to govern the district. The first elected Commissioners for Taylor District were: Merle Travis, Walter Florea and F. L. Cundy. Commissioners serve without compensation but may be paid expenses if money is available.

On November 9, 1940, Taylor county was certified as a fully organized governmental subdivision of the State of Iowa and a public body corporate and politic; this means that the Taylor District was organized under State not Federal laws, that the farmers elect their

own local supervisors to direct district affairs with full local control.

After the district was organized, the commissioners requested technical assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture to carry out the Soil Conservation program in the district. Full time technicians were assigned to the district by the Soil Conservation Service at no extra local cost. Federal tax funds pay them and furnished their necessary supplies and equipment. These technicians have no authority whatsoever over the district or the farmers in it. The Soil Conservation Service directs the work of its own men and develops their technical standards.

The duties of the Soil Conservation Service technicians are to assist farmers in developing farm conservation plans by using every acre according to its capabilities. They also give farmers assistance in planning of conservation practices. The farmer pays no fee for this technical assistance.

The SCS works freely in cooperating with all other agencies, Federal, State or local. It cooperates with private interests, civic organizations and all other groups with a stake in conservation of our natural resources.

The Taylor County Soils District has accomplished many achievements during the 13 years of its existence. This has been made possible by an alert, wide-awake governing body. At the present time 780 conservation plans have been developed on Taylor county farms. Approximately 600 miles of terraces have been constructed, 300 livestock ponds, 40 miles of drainage, 32 miles of waterways, 50 per-

manent type structure and approximately 40,000 acres of land has been brought under contour cultivation since the district was organized. Numerous other conservation practices have also been fostered.

Great strides have been made in Taylor county soil conservation work. Increasing interest every year since 1940 has proved that local people are becoming more and more concerned with keeping topsoil at home.

The Taylor district is the only one in the State of Iowa to own its own office and garage. This was made possible by revenue received from the district bulldozer in construction of terraces, ponds, etc.

The present commissioners of the Taylor district are: Merle Travis, chairman, Charles Wintermute and Roy Selley. With this active governing body running the affairs of the local soils district, continued advancements in Soil Conservation on Taylor county land can be expected.

LAND WAS CHEAP HERE 100 YEARS AGO

Land sold for \$1.25 an acre. Corn and oats were "hauled in" at six cents a bushel. Pork was a dollar per hundred. Little money was to be had. Work was paid with other work or traded for food. Nearly everyone was in debt with a sheriff and constable, process papers in hand, common visitors at nearly every man's door.

EARLY TAXES

Early taxes were light. The first recorded Bedford levy of 5½ mills brought in \$35.87. Poll tax that year totaled \$26.50.

FOR SIXTEEN YEARS . . .



Your Friendly Market Place —

Open Every Working Day in the Year
and Even Evenings by Appointment

If you are considering the purchase of furniture, lamps, linoleum, venetian blinds, bedding, etc., please remember this—someone you know, knows the KATZ STORES. ASK THEM.

We say this because during the past 16 years we have sold and delivered more home furnishings than any other store our size in southern Iowa, so the chances are pretty good that someone you know has home furnishings which were purchased in our stores.

The good reputation we enjoy is the result of selling home furnishings that our customers enjoy - home furnishings of lasting comfort - enduring beauty - and complete satisfaction.

We believe our stores are the places to buy the furniture, lamps, linoleum, venetian blinds, bedding, etc. you need for your home. We have arranged for budget terms and you can have up to twelve months to pay, and we will give you a good trade on your old furniture.

Come in next time you are in town — You will be glad.

— MIKE & VERDA

Katz Store
BEDFORD • IOWA

**Here are two old pictures taken in Bedford
LONG, LONG AGO—**

One of youngsters, the other of an octogenarian group



A SIXTH GRADE PICTURE TAKEN ABOUT 1893 IN FRONT OF THE OLD BRICK SCHOOL BUILDING

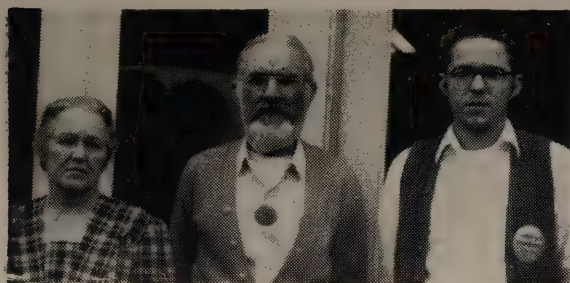
Lower row, left to right: Willis Bates, Maude Nelson, Mildred Dunning, Mary Ulrich, Blanche Arterbern, Helen Crum, Iva Hyde, Floy Horseywell, Melvin Fluharty, (unidentified). Second row: John Blake, Clark Rich, Mary Alger, Daisy Blake, Than Lucas, Harley Stretch, Sula Rockwell, Mable Pratt, Roy Tate, Miss Stoffers, teacher. Back row: Joy Horseywell, Anna Patrick, Walter Fowler, Harry Long, Jessie Houck, Ralph Dallison, Grace Miller, Grace Golding, Walter Scane.

**Picture of a group of men and women past
80 years of age taken at a picnic at the
Alex John farm home north of Bedford in 1900**



Front row, left to right: Mary S. Brown, Emily Wilson, Sally Young, Mary Jane Lewis, Catherine Chavey, Maria Dallison. Back row: Case Sheeley, E. Childs, W. A. Templeton, Wm. Golding, Wm. Payton, Michael Propst, O. W. Houck, Robert Shade.

Down At Wogan's Electric . . .



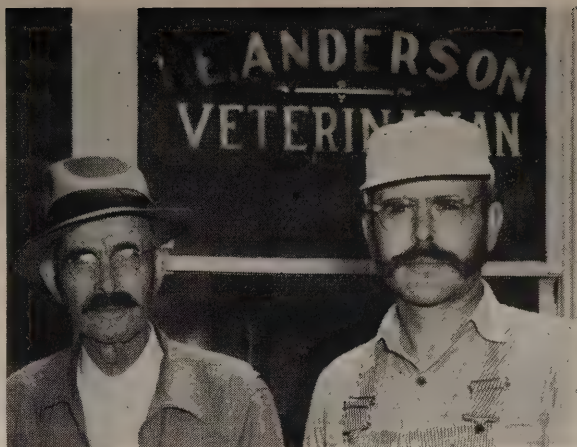
MYRTIE - JOHN - PAUL

ARE READY TO SERVE YOU

In Your Electrical Appliance Needs
Stoves - Refrigerators - Washers and
Deep Freeze Units and Small Appliances,
Beer and Soft Drinks, if you're thirsty

WOGAN'S ELECTRIC

Bedford, Iowa



T. E. ANDERSON — DON ANDERSON

Serving the
BEDFORD COMMUNITY
And Surrounding Territory

T. E. since 1907 — Don since 1950

Drs. Anderson & Anderson
VETERINARIANS



We Invite You to
Visit Our Modern
Processing Plant
During Your Centennial
Visit In Bedford

—
All Kinds of Farm Seeds
CUSTOM CLEANING

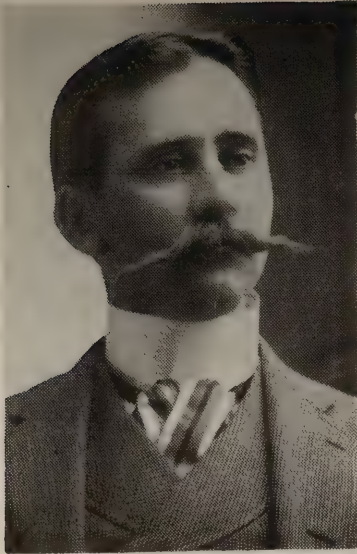
—
East Main Street, Bedford

One of the Largest
Buyers and Processors
of
KENTUCKY
BLUEGRASS SEED
in
SOUTHWEST IOWA

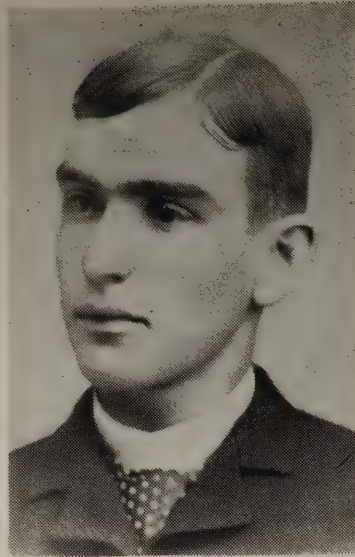


L. R. Vogt Seed Company

Pictured Here Are
Some of Bedford's
—PROFESSIONAL MEN
—MERCHANTS
—EDUCATORS
of an Earlier Day



G. W. HOOK, Merchant



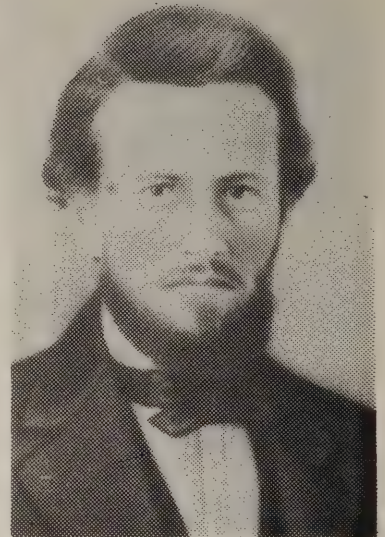
HENRY GRAFF, Merchant



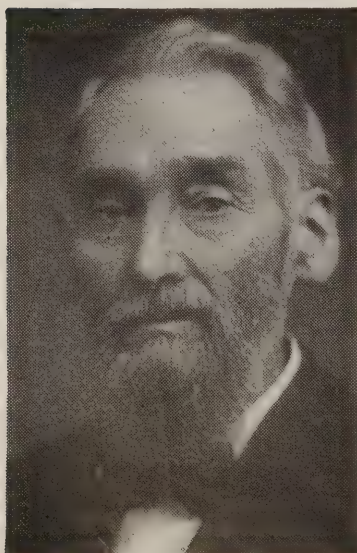
O. D. LAIRD, Merchant



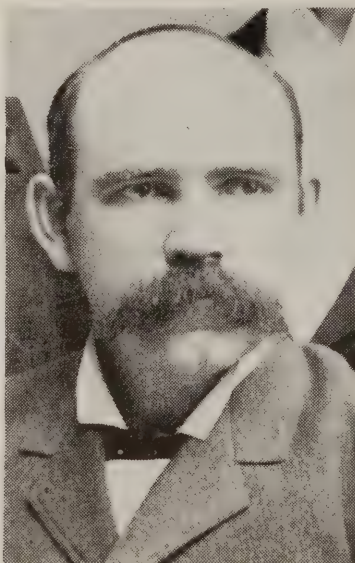
CHAS. PERKINS, Retired Farmer



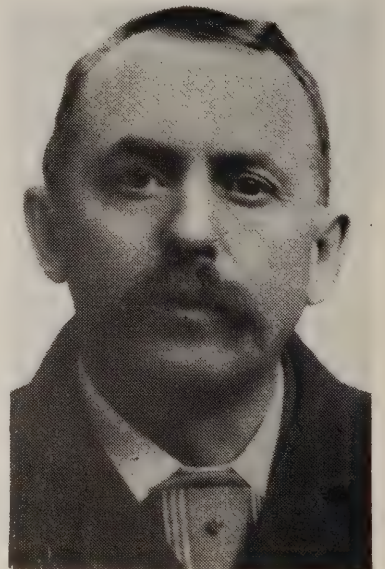
S. J. HALL, Judge



J. M. PATRICK, Merchant



W. J. BELL, Supt. of Schools



N. S. SAWYER, Blacksmith

FOR THE FUTURE
AS WELL AS IN
THE CENTENNIAL YEAR—

DINNERS
SHORT ORDERS
SOFT DRINKS
&
BEER

at the
Main Cafe
Cafe

Stewart & Thomas



Insurance Was Born Long Before—



BEDFORD WAS FOUNDED

INSURANCE is one of civilizations greatest gifts. For millions of people it has turned aside or softened the cruel blows of fate.

For over half of this century this insurance firm has served this community. To meet the constant evolution of society and its needs, revised rates, modernized farms and new coverages are offered.

“Farmers Controlled Insurance for Farmers”

Farmers Mutual Insurance Association

Bedford, Iowa

Leonard L. Moore, Secretary

Phone 253

Bibbins Park

— One of Nature's Beauty Spots



A. L. BIBBINS

Added improvements to Bedford within the last half-century include "Bibbins Park", beauty spot and recreational center, made possible by the late A. L. Bibbins. After his death on April 8, 1921, a city park was given to Bedford by a provision of the will of A. L. Bibbins: "In appreciation for the liberal patronage of the people of Bedford and vicinity while I was in business there, I herewith direct my executor to set aside from my estate, and use therefrom, the sum of \$7,000 for the purpose of purchasing and donating to the City of Bedford, Iowa, for park purposes, the tract of land consisting of approximately 20 acres now belonging to Frank Dunning and located in northeast Bedford . . ." The park's donor, A. L. Bibbins, sometimes called "Granny" Bibbins, engaged in the drug business for a number of years in Bedford. Other business enterprises of Bibbins include his ownership of the Garland Hotel for a time.

The city gratefully accepted Bibbins' generous gift to establish a city park, popular setting for family picnics and playground center for the "small fry" of the city and surrounding territory. Lighted tennis courts and croquet grounds are also available in this park. A park board of three members manages the park for the city.

During the period of CCC camp establishment by the federal government, a large camp with many

buildings was erected in the northwest corner of Bibbins Park. After the camp was discontinued, the buildings were given to the city to be dismantled and sold. Left for the future use of the Bedford community were the camp's dining room and two other buildings.

The local American Legion post now leases the former camp dining room building where an attractive club room has been added and the post's meeting place is maintained. A local rifle and pistol club have made use of one of the other buildings.

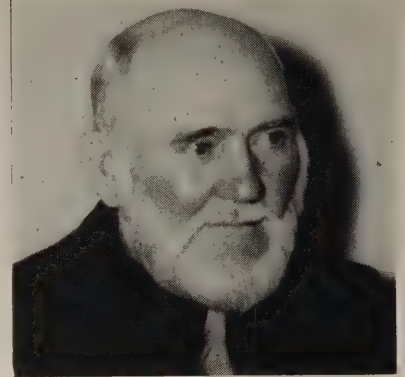
A recent addition to the park's facilities, as provided in the will of the late George Brown, is a drinking fountain set in attractive and extensive stone work.

Early Mayors Of Bedford

Bedford was incorporated on May 28, 1866 with Joseph H. Turner being elected Mayor and was succeeded by L. N. Lewis in 1868. G. L. Finn and W. E. Crum in 1871. J. D. Morris in 1872, and L. Evans in 1873 and W. Randolph in 1874.

W. F. Walker was recorder of the first council under Mayor Joseph H. Turner with William Walker, Curtis Williams, Charles Cope, R. H. Patrick and J. M. Houck serving as Councilmen. Succeeding councilmen until 1874 included R. A. Moser, D. W. Atkinson, E. Rose, D. C. Eldridge, D. R. Hammer, W. E. Swap, Wm. P. Long, Robert Reid, J. F. Hale, A. J. Sowers, J. D. Morris, J. P. Flick, J. J. Evans, J. H. Jolly, G. W. Howe, John Graff, R. Rogers, H. McConville, and W. G. Barrows.

Early city records and Mayor's Dockets reflect pride in an orderly recordation of events, carefully and well-written in studied long-hand and treating skillfully with such vexatious matters of the day as assaults, batteries, small claims suits, intoxications, disturbing the peace, petty larceny, driving of horses upon the city street with disregard of person and property, carrying of pistols, and keeping and frequenting a house of ill fame.



Bedford's Present Mayor
LESTER ROUND

Many stories have been told, retold, exaggerated or forgotten in the past century of life in Bedford. There are many incidents, which will never be recalled, having been lost in the retelling or modified by official records.

Two histories of Taylor county were written, both prior to World War I, but an accurate history of Bedford itself has never been made. This book is not intended to be such a history, but rather a Centennial Book - to recall the past and record the present. It is published in a spirit of Centennial Times - a festival spirit, and in celebrating the passing of one hundred years since Bedford was founded, its citizens look to the future in the hope that those who follow will treasure our heritage and add their contribution to the story of a good and thoroughly American town.

—Lester Round, Mayor

A. J. Litteer, more familiarly known as "Jack", was one of the early settlers in Taylor county and was one of the first to build a log cabin in Bedford when the town was founded.

Mr. Litteer owned a jewelry store in Bedford, located in the east part of what is now Galey's grocery and the room formerly used by A. F. Luther, the tailor. A. S. Meek managed the store for Mr. Litteer for a number of years.

Not How
Long
We Have
Served
But
How Well . . .



State Savings Bank

SINCE 1915

BEDFORD, IOWA

"Taylor County's Largest Bank"



Bill
Young

Don
Smith

Guy
Sleep

BEDFORD — CLEARFIELD

SHARPSBURG — GRAVITY

Member F.D.I.C.

Countywide Banking Service

DO YOU REMEMBER?



C. W. Terpening's Marble-Covered House

There are a lot of things to remember about our old home town, a few of which are pictured here.

Built by Terpening to be exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair. It proved to be too large to go in a box car for shipment. It still stands in south Bedford, now a garage on Edna Edmundson's place.

Windsor House—

in north Bedford, before its acreage was developed into Paschal's Addition. The old house was moved and is now the Ross Kopp home.



Mainey Laird's Harness Shop

Back in the horse and buggy days, O. D. Laird's harness shop, located on the south side of Main street, where Orth's Shoe Store is now located, was a going business, with its stock of saddles, home made harness, buggy whips and fly nets.

INTERIOR OLD STORE

Your Hosts In Bedford - Dale & Bob



We offer the finest in dining facilities
as well as an ultra modern motel

WE ARE NOT SO
OLD - BUT WE ARE
OLD ENOUGH TO
SERVE YOU WELL

SERVICE STATION

24 HOUR SERVICE

GROCERY

THE SKYLARK

Boys and Girls of Long Ago Had Their Little Groups BACK IN THE GAY NINETIES



At the left, the Pleasant Hill Dramatic Club, pictured Jan. 23, 1886, gave several plays at the Titus School in the winter of 1886-87.

The ladies are, left to right: Ida Rubart, May Hiatt, Vira Titus. The men are, left to right: Ellis Titus, Sen Campbell, Jim Daugherty, Husten Cox, Roe Rubart, all residents of Bedford at some time in their lives.

Pictured at the right, this group of gay young blades called themselves "The Dizzy Six".

Seated, front: Court Orth. Back row, left to right: R. W. Thompson, Ed Graff, Charlie Bailey, Love Beall, Earl Underwood. Dressed in their best, this "old gang of mine" had this picture taken in the late 80's, about the time they were graduated from Bedford High School.

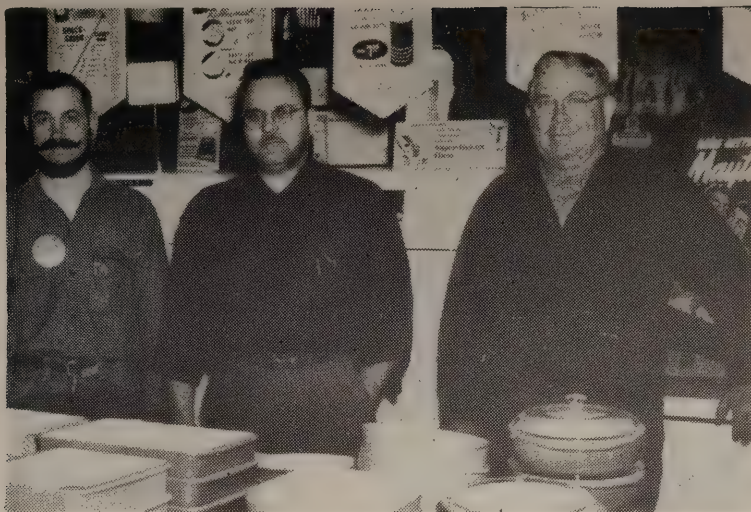


CENTENNIAL GREETINGS FROM—

1853



1953



Harold Shepherd

Robert Stacy

Leon C. Severs

Our EARLY PIONEERS broke the sod and stump ground with a crude plow drawn by a team of horses or a yoke of oxen.

BUT TIMES HAVE CHANGED and we have kept pace with the advancement to offer a complete line of hardware for farm and home.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| —Sherwin-Williams Paints | —Frigidaire Refrigerators
and Automatic Washers |
| —Maytag Appliances | —Coleman Automatic
Heating |
| —Bottle Gas Service | |

COMPLETE HARDWARE LINES



Headquarters for
ALLIS-CHALMERS
MACHINERY
& SERVICE

Severs-Stacy Hardware

Bedford, Iowa

John V. Crum World Famous Sprinter



Probably the most famous athlete Bedford has yet produced was John Van Fleet Crum (brother of Bedford's banker, Ed Crum). Crum, one of the best known sprinters in the land in 1894 and 1895, has been named to Iowa's Hall of Sports Fame. An account of the records he broke, the races he won and the honors he received could fill this book. At the Mott Haven games, May 25, 1895 Crum, the one-man Iowa U track team won over the best that Yale, Harvard, Princeton, and Pennsylvania had to offer.



Baseball Champs of 58 Years Ago

the champs in 1895. Front row, l. to r.: Clay Thomas, Don Flick, W. E. Crum, jr., Ben Clark. 2nd. row: Ornen Ormsby, Guy Thompson, Beryl Paschal, Sherm Neff, Roy Tate. Thompson, Beryl Paschal, Sherm Neff, Roy Tate.

B. H. S. Husky Team of 1904

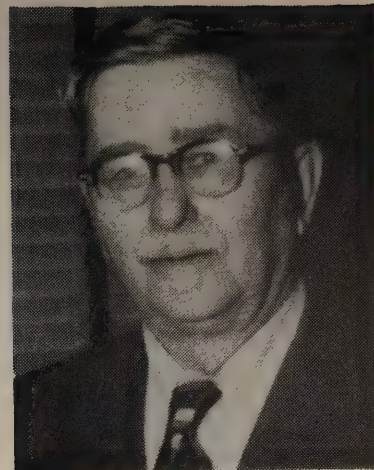
Coached by Dr. N. J. Bates, this Bedford high school football team, picture below taken in 1904, played together two years and never lost a game. They defeated such teams as the Corning Academy team, an older and much heavier bunch, and held Tarkio College to a scoreless tie. They played college-style football.



First row, left to right: Harry Johnson, Lawrence Thompson, Harlan Slawson, Bob Evans, Earl Moore, Clarence Dunn. Second row: Walter Evans, Orle Webb, Ferris Webb, Ben Tinkham, Harry May, Ben Long. Third row: Prof. Howard, Fred Evans, Milo Blakemore, Fred Blake, Dr. N. J. Bates, coach.

Since 1911...

the name WETMORE has stood for thoughtful, personalized service. Founded by F. L. Wetmore, Sr., 42 years ago this firm has served Bedford and Taylor County.



F. L. Wetmore, Sr.



F. L. Wetmore, Jr.



Lucille Wetmore

Frank L. Wetmore, Jr. assumed the responsibility of the business upon the retirement of his father in 1941.

Mrs. Lucille Wetmore is our receptionist and floral specialist.

Built in 1919 this was the third funeral home built as such in the State of Iowa. Recently we have completed re-modeling the funeral home to offer greater privacy and thoughtful service

Wetmore
Funeral Home ■ ■ ■



The Wetmore Funeral Home

"We Are In the Service of Others"

702 Madison St.

Phone 5

Bedford, Iowa

A Few of the Well-Known Bedford Business Men

Of 50 or More Years Ago . . .



Front row, left to right: Dr. C. M. Paschal, M. D.; Wm. A. Guthman, teacher; Henry P. Long, banker; J. A. Minor, grocer; H. M. Long, county sheriff; F. N. Lewis, lumberman, builder, banker; back row, Dr. J. P. Standley, M. D.; W. H. Gooding, optician; J. J. Clark, editor; Charley Stephens, hardware; J. C. Beauchamp, clothier; J. S. Pieringer, optometrist and jeweler.

. . . And Their Wives Who Played an Important Part

In the Social & Civic Life of the Bedford Community



Front row, left to right: Mrs. C. M. Paschal, Mrs. J. S. Pieringer, Mrs. J. J. Clark, Ida Bailey, Mrs. F. N. Lewis, Mrs. J. P. Standley. Back row: Mrs. H. M. Long, Mrs. J. C. Beauchamp, Mrs. Wm. A. Guthman, Mrs. J. A. Minor, Mrs. H. P. Long, Mrs. Chas. Stephens



RUFFLES AND WHISKERS—

are as out of date as OLD FASHIONED PLUMBING & HEATING. To continue to wear ruffles or whiskers of yesteryear is no more out-of-date than to continue to tolerate plumbing and heating equipment in your home that has long since served its time and usefulness.

KOHLER ENAMELWARE

Williams
OIL-O-MATIC
home heating

GOULD PUMPS

Ben Scane - Bedford, Iowa

PLUMBING & HEATING



Music Groups In Bedford Away Back When . . .

Bedford's early history was enlivened and made more enjoyable by singing schools, choirs of various sorts, mandolin clubs, town bands, and musical groups in the schools.

In those days of long ago, before radios, chautauquas and winter lyceum courses, belonging to such a

group was an honor and carried considerable responsibility. You had to be a musician of more than passing ability, you were expected to attend rehearsals, dress well and be ready to give a program free of all bobbles.

Pictured above is one of those musical groups of long ago—about

75 years by estimate, called "The Mandolin Five". Note the high white collars worn by the members, the cut of their coats, almost formal, and their generally dignified appearance.

Left to right they are identified as S. E. Thompson, Will Dallison, Charles Bailey, Lon Van Sickle, Harry Guthrie.

The Bedford Town Band Was Famous 50 Years Ago

Bedford's Town Band was famous here and elsewhere in the mid-west a half century ago and for a few years later. With the coming of radio, automobiles and good roads, interest in a town band started to diminish. With the passing of the town band, a fine old enjoyable institution went out of existence.

Pictured here is one of those town bands: Front row, left to right: Leo (Red) Moody, Gail Churchill. Second row: Glen Bell, George Evans, Clyde Dunning, leader, Earl Rhoads, Ralph Perkins, A. D. Smith, Arthur Bishop. Third row: Earl Little, Chas. Teachnor, Leon Canon, Mose Dressler, Dwight Perkins, B. Johnson. Back row: R. W. Thompson, Hal Reynolds, John Swap, Guy Canon, Roy Canon.



Bedford's OLDEST Store —

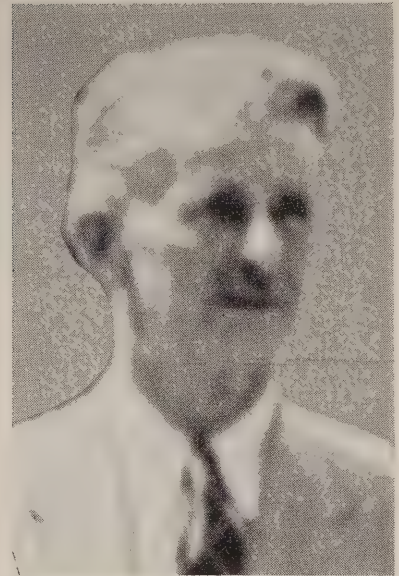
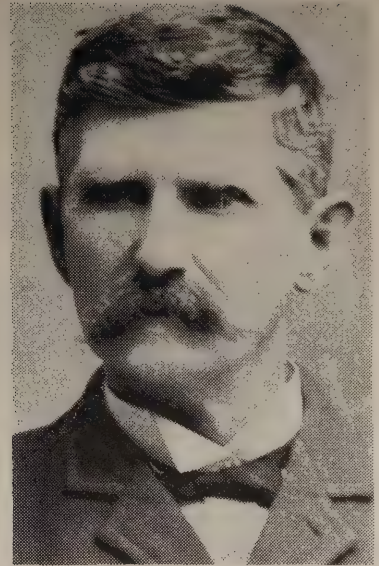


— With the NEWEST Look

J. M. THOMPSON (upper right), founder of the Thompson Mercantile Co. in 1868, was a Civil War veteran, County Board of Supervisor and civic leader.

S. E. THOMPSON (middle right), president of the firm from 1924-1952, was active in all community affair including the schools, library board, chautauqua and the securing of the Lake of Three Fires.

GUY THOMPSON (lower right), was secretary of the firm from 1909 to 1952, when he retired. He is known for his active work in civic affairs and the Presbyterian church.



This store is OLD in its continued reputation for RELIABILITY for more than 85 years . . .

IN BEDFORD, IOWA, IT IS——

Thompsons

HEADQUARTERS OF SATISFIED CUSTOMERS SINCE 1868

Bedford's Men Did Their Part In World Wars I and II

TAYLOR COUNTY'S FIRST DRAFT BOARD, DRAWING FIRST NUMBER



Sheriff Joe Keith and daughter, Loa Keith Kinnison, standing.
Auditor J. N. Hughes and Della Keith Moore, seated.

Many Bedford men enlisted soon after the declaration of war April 7, 1917 before the Draft Law went into effect. All men registered, 21 to 31 years of age, inclusive, and responded to the call as it came to them.

No attempt will be made here to name all the Bedford men who served in various branches of the armed services during World War I. All served with honor. A few lost their lives.

Company K of Corning, a unit of the National Guard, activated soon after war was declared, attracted many of the local boys to its roster, including George Blake, Leslie C. Blake, Donald Bristow,

Wayne F. Bristow, Don D. Dougherty, Leroy B. Hall, Virgil M. Kinnison, Tom V. Leonard, John R. Livingston, Woody C. Moon, Jerome C. Murphy, Carrol Nelson, Rex Moody, Glen Burrell, Adolph Peach, Arthur Peach, Beryl Robbins, Frank Robbins, Rosco Schively, Bernie Mohler, Glenn M. Tracy, George W. Woodward and Glade "Croppy" Bradley.

Company K served overseas in some of the hottest fighting of the war as a unit in the famous Rainbow Division. "Croppy" Bradley had served with the guards in the Mexican border and reenlisted with Co. K and was commissioned a 1st Lieutenant. He served with the company until August 1918 when

he was transferred to Co. D, and later when officer casualties were heavy he was placed in command of Co. F. He was made a captain before the war ended.

There were three casualties in the list of men above: Tom V. Leonard and Arthur Peach were killed in action and John R. Livingston died of wounds in France. Other Bedford casualties during World War I were Dale Bradley, Glenn C. Calhoun, Frank L. Hopkins, Loyd O'Dell, Hugh I. Parks, Ralph Patton and James G. Redenbaugh.

Rev. Winfred E. Robb, pastor of the Bedford Christian church for a number of years, served as chaplain in the 168th, Rainbow Division.

The Draft Law

The Draft Bill became a law May 18, 1917 and Taylor county's draft board consisting of Joe Keith, county sheriff, J. N. Hughes, county auditor and Dr. A. A. Archer, were in charge of its administration in Taylor county. Long remembered will be the groups of men, dressed in civilian clothes, marching from the court house to the Depot in Bedford, "closed ranks", headed by Mr. Keith. Another Taylor county draft call was being met.

The American Legion

Bedford Post No. 164, The American Legion, received its charter in 1919, and in the years immediately following the close of the war nearly 200 men were named on its membership list.

Honor Roll of World War II

Pictured here is the Taylor County Honor Roll showing names of those serving in World War II. It stood on the court house lawn until several years after the close of the war. Many Bedfordites are named on the board.



Honor Roll as It Appeared Southeast of Courthouse



Pictorial Memories Of Bedford In "Old Days"

Our river, with its odd name, "The 102", said to have been derived from the number on a esurveyor's stake, often became unruly. This picture was taken on one of the numerous occasions it overflowed the bottoms east of town. Much of the river's course has been straightened to prevent such disasters.

—And The Snows Came

Here's a scene pictured at the corner of Court and Main some years ago, when snow was piled high. In recent years a tax levy for snow removal provides funds for the operation of city equipment and man power for loading the drifts on trucks for removal out of the business section.



WHOLESALE PRODUCE
Poultry, Eggs, Cream, Hides,
Fur, Wool

TELEPHONE

123

Bedford, Iowa

HARBOUR & SON

FRANCIS WAYNE HARBOUR
ROBERT WAYNE HARBOUR

LAKE OF THREE FIRES —



—BEDFORD'S POPULAR PARK

The Lake of Three Fires had its beginning within the lifetime of Bedford's "younger set". Construction of the 125 acres of water area for the lake was started in 1933. Three years later the dream of Bedford sportsmen and outdoorsmen was completed. Here on summer afternoons thousands of visitors enjoy the numerous park facilities of fishing, boating, picnicking and nature study.

Some of the first steps in making this recreational center a reality include a communication from Frank Lewis at Orlando, Florida who revealed that his friend Sam Park (then in France) would donate \$10,000 for a memorial at Bedford if Lewis knew of something suitable. Thus the lake idea began to form.

A local canvass for additional donations was started, and the self-appointed committee continued to "stir interest". The money raisers were not easily discouraged for when interest began to lag new approaches were used to help raise a fund of over \$26,000. This amount was more than ample to purchase the 376 acres for the park area. The area was then turned over to the Iowa State Conservation Commission.

The actual Sam Park donation was in reality \$2,500. To add to the personal donations the city of Bedford gave \$9,000 which gave the city the right to pipe water from the lake to the city water works. This agreement proved to be a "life saver" because, without it, water would have had to have been shipped into Bedford during the

drought of 1933. The Taylor County Board of Supervisors paid \$2500 for the timber cut from the proposed lake bottom area.

Within the park area are three propagation pools where bass, crappie, blue gills and bull heads are raised and later put in the lake with some transferred to other state lakes. The Lake of Three Fires is gaining the reputation of being "one of the best bass lakes in Iowa". It provides a refuge for wild life, as well as a resting place for migratory ducks and geese.

The personnel of the C.C.C. camp of Bedford was used to build the 900-foot dam and to construct the custodian's residence, the shelter house and bath house.

Added to the park facilities were six completely modern cabins. The

park buildings are served by the park's own water works. The cabins are equipped with electric refrigerators, stoves, and every convenience.

To reduce the silting of the lake, the farmers in the water shed cooperated in terracing their land and several silting dams have been constructed.

It isn't unusual on any Sunday during the summer season to find several thousand visitors in the well-equipped park area enjoying picnics, or broiling steaks on the fire grates conveniently situated throughout the park. The beautiful beach is also well patronized, with lifeguards on hand to watch and teach the children to swim and dive. Children come from some distance for these classes for here several thousand youth have learned to swim.—Frank L. Wetmore, sr.

AERIAL VIEW OF LAKE OF THREE FIRES



OLD HOUSES

in Bedford

Just a few of the old places are shown here.

The present Paul Trumbo house, west Main, served the public years ago as the Joe Heasley Hotel.



THE OLD SCHERICH HOUSE

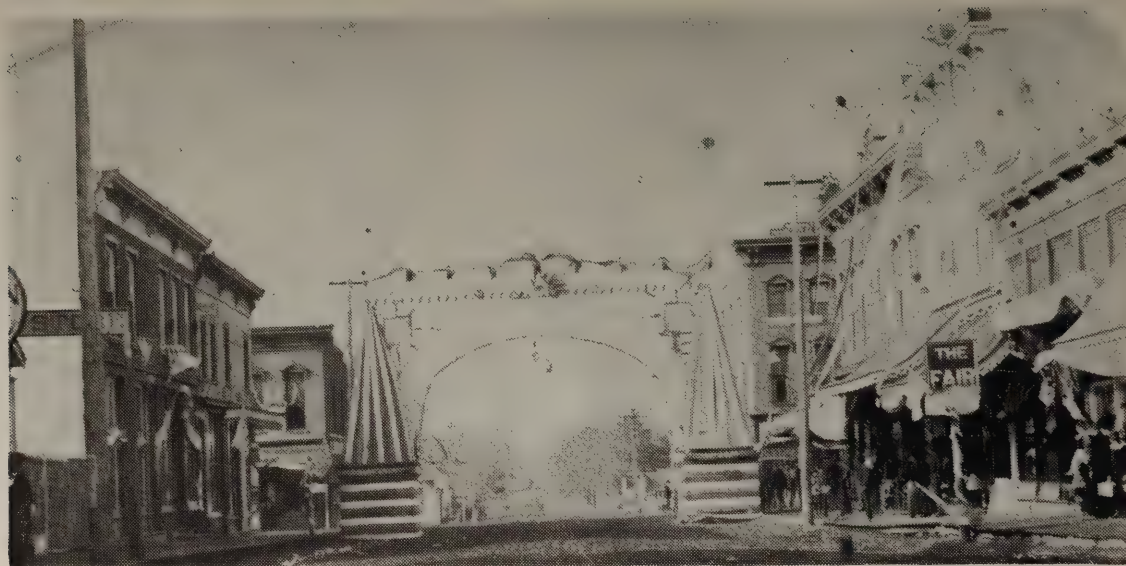
One of the early built houses in Bedford, the Scherich home, now occupied by the Carl Cummings family.

THE J. M. THOMPSON HOME

This house in north Bedford was built by the late J. M. Thompson and occupied by the family until it was sold to the late G. W. Hook a few years ago. Mrs. Edna Hook still resides here.



NOSTALGIC SCENES OF YESTERYEAR



SPANISH AMERICAN WAR WELCOME HOME ARCH

If you are old enough to remember when this welcome arch stood on Main street near the Thompson corner, back in 1899, you are at least 60.

Lake Skimpus, the “Ole Swimmin’ Hole” in Summer; The Source of our Natural Ice in Winter



OLD LAKE IN EAST BEDFORD BACK IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

These Men and Women
were residents of
BEDFORD IN THE
EARLY PIONEER
DAYS



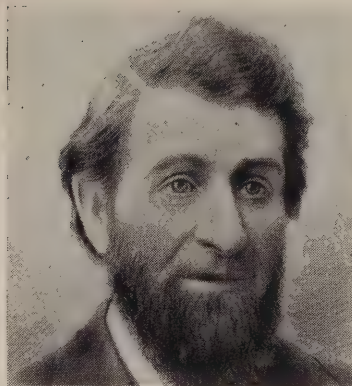
S. D. MAXWELL, Grocer
Wife and Daughter, Ethel



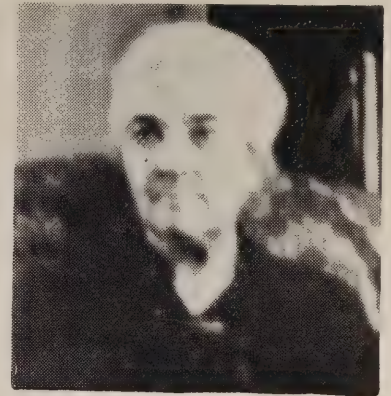
M. MANN, Merchant
Wife and Daughters, Cora (Moody) and
Tressie E. (Thomas)



MARTHA LAIRD, Pioneer Mother



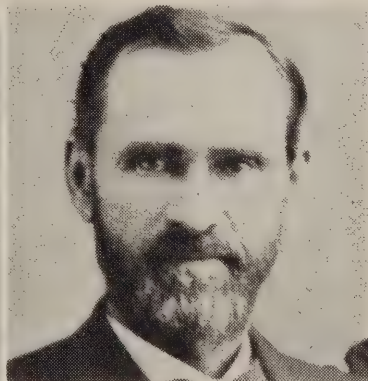
J. S. VAN FLEET, Banker



MRS. J. A. MINOR early settler,
has lived in Bedford since 1860



WM. COBB, Preacher



J. S. BOYD, Merchant



JOHN B. OWENS, Educator

CONCLUDING NOTE—

It is the sincere regret of the Centennial Booklet Publishing Board that there isn't space to print more of these pictures and stories. Countless men and women of the Bedford community, although not mentioned here, have made significant and lasting impressions upon those who have lived in this century-old town.

